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PART 22.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

34

1902.

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ERRATA.

Page 7, No. 12, line 6. For "Count Creuville" read "Count Grenneville."
Page 12, *passim*. *Idem*.
Page 18, line 7 from top. For "Bon Amama" read "Bou Amama."
Page 55, No. 97, line 1. For "No. 65" read "No. 64."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 22.

No. 1.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1902.

I APPROVE the proposal contained in your despatch No. 169 of the 27th November last, that you should visit His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco at Rabat towards the end of the present month, and that you should take advantage of the opportunity to present your letter of credence.

The proposals contained in your despatch No. 177 of the 10th ultimo, as to the staff which you wish to take with you on the occasion of your Mission are also approved, and I inclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from the War Office,* to whom your suggestions with regard to the appointment of Captain B. R. James were referred, and copy of a letter from the Treasury as to payment of expenses.†

I have already informed you in my telegram No. 28 of the 27th ultimo that Major Lord Loch may accompany the Mission to Rabat.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 4, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 184 of the 24th December, 1901, inclosing copies of the correspondence which has passed between you and the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society relative to the Slave Trade in Morocco.

I approve your proposal to speak to His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco on the subject in the sense suggested in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 6, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 182, Confidential, of the 17th December, 1901, reporting your conversation with M. de Ojeda relative to the state of affairs in

* War Office, December 28, 1901. † Treasury, December 31, 1901.

Morocco, and the overtures recently made by France to Spain with regard to that country.

I approve the language used by you as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 11, 1902.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 30, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Mogador, relative to the condition of the prison at that place. I have drawn the attention of the Sultan in an unofficial manner to the facts as reported by Mr. Madden, and have expressed the hope that the Inspectors who, I understand, have been appointed will very shortly be in a position to effect an amelioration of the condition of the prison at Mogador, and also of similar establishments in other parts of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Madden to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 23, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 18 and 20 of June 1900 which I had the honour of addressing to you on the subject of the state of Mogador prison, I beg to inform you that one's attention cannot but be drawn to the number of deaths that daily take place in the said prison. It is true that His present Majesty the Sultan of Morocco has ordered the release of a number of political prisoners confined at Mogador, and this has reduced the crush in the gaol. Nevertheless, funerals are often seen emerging from the prison three times a day, and the number of deaths since I have been in Mogador must have been very great. These poor people, many of them strangers, and, therefore, totally friendless, have as their only means of sustenance a couple of loaves daily, badly baked, and manufactured from black bitter flour imported from Marseilles. This stuff, acting on systems doubtless already enfeebled by exposure, want, and insanitation, is more likely to kill than to sustain life. No doctor is ever admitted to or called into the prison, and the dead are just carried out and buried, without even the funeral chant usually accorded.

I have thought it my duty to report this matter to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHIBALD M. MADDEN.

P.S.—I learn that there are still 622 prisoners in the Mogador gaol.

A. M. M.

No. 5.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 11, 1902.)

(No. 186.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 30, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the submission of certain tribes in the neighbourhood of Figuig to the French authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Fez, December* 21, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, according to a native report which reached here yesterday, the people of Wad Ghir and Al Maiy have submitted to the French at Juan Dar, and it is expected that the whole of the Zenaga will do so shortly also. The Zenaga are stated to be dissatisfied with the Sultan's replies to their Delegates recently at the Court, and each of their Sheikhs is anxious to obtain a post under French administration. The Kaïd of Oujdah, Sid-el-Abbas Uld Ben Mohammed Esh Shirqui, a relation of the Sultan's, who had been ill for some time, died there about two weeks ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 6.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 11.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 410 of the 17th October, 1901, I have the honour to inclose copies of an article extracted from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of the 8th instant, which seems to throw a little further light on the details of the arrangement elaborated by the Moorish Mission and the French Government in Paris last summer with regard to the South Algerian frontier.

The writer states, on what he describes as very reliable authority, that a fundamental part of this arrangement was the recognition of Moorish sovereignty over Figuig and Ouchda. It is also said to have provided for the installation in those two places of Moorish officials, assisted by French Agents, while, by way of reciprocity, Moorish Agents are to be installed in certain localities recognized as French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Extract from "La Dépêche Coloniale" of January 8, 1902.

LA QUESTION DE FIGUIG.—UN PROTECTORAT POSTICHE.—Nous ne nous proposons nullement de porter une note aigre dans les patientes et laborieuses négociations poursuivies à Alger en vue du réglement de la frontière du Sud-Saharien Occidental avec le Maroc. A quoi aboutiront-elles, nous ne le saurions pressentir. Elles subissent présentement un temps d'arrêt en raison de la vacance obligatoire du Rhamadan, suspensif de tout travail intellectuel chez les rigides observateurs des prescriptions Coraniques, mais vont reprendre au premier jour, et chacun fait vœu qu'elles se closent par un arrangement satisfaisant.

Rien ne transpire sur ce que disent ou ce que pensent les négociateurs. Ils observent, comme il convient, l'idéal de la plus impeccable discrétion diplomatique. Il semblerait toutefois, au temps qu'on y met, que les choses ne vont pas comme sur des roulettes, et nous pensons bien que dans le secret des conférences bien closes, on discute ferme, cartes géographiques et considérations conciliatrices en mains. Au surplus, nous savons que la représentation de la cause Française est commise à des mandataires d'une autorité irrécusable, et nous nourrissons une absolue confiance dans leur clairvoyance, leur patriotisme, leur parfaite connaissance des faits, de la situation des choses, et du but à atteindre.

Nonobstant, avant que l'œuvre à l'instruction atteigne la phase du fait accompli, nous estimons juste et utile d'exprimer librement sans réticence ce que nous croyons être la vérité. Nous pensons que c'est notre devoir de publiciste désintéressé, de serviteur dévoué de la cause de l'intérêt national, Algérien, et h umanitaire engagé dans ces graves pourparlers.

Des informations que nous avons tout sujet de croire fondées, nous ont appris que la reconnaissance de la souveraineté du Maroc sur Figuig et Ouchda est une base fondamentale du projet préparé récemment à Paris, et dont il s'agit maintenant d'effectuer l'application.

Si le fait est exact, c'est une faute qui ne peut que peser lourdement sur la tournure des négociations. Sachant que nous ne voulons pas prendre Figuig, et convaincu que cela vient de ce que, pour une raison ou une autre, nous ne le pouvons pas faire, le Maghsen est naturellement amené à accentuer sa résistance et ses oppositions à toutes les exigences que nous avons à produire.

Il haussera de ton et de prétentions à mesure que nous baisserons le nôtre et ferons montre d'un extrême désir d'éviter un conflit. C'est juste le contraire de ce qu'il eût fallu faire.

Il eût fallu affirmer que l'occupation de Figuig est devenue indispensable par suite de l'impuissance prouvée du Maroc à y faire acte d'autorité, à s'y faire obéir, et à y imposer une conduite raisonnable, de bonne harmonie, et de relations pacifiques avec les Français, constructeurs du chemin de fer.

Mais en voilà bien d'une autre. On dit, on affirme que le projet en question comporterait l'installation à Figuig et à Ouchda, et par réciprocité dans certaines localités du territoire Algérien, de fonctionnaires Marocains assistés d'Agents Français, dont la mission consisterait à parer aux affaires ou conflits surgissant du contact des nationaux des deux pays, à la sauvegarde des intérêts commerciaux, à la répression des attentats, par la justice des ksour.

Alors, de deux choses l'une :

Ou bien, les ksour seront laissés sans troupe armée. Alors la population, avec ses djemmâa, ses zaouia, ses mokhaddem, ses Cheiks, continuera à se débrouiller comme elle pourra, suivant ses habitudes invétérées, ksar contre ksar, maison contre maison. Les djich et les rhazzia contre les Roumis reprendront de plus belle à la barbe de nos officiers claquemurés à Aïn-Sefra et à Djenien-ed-dar, se rongeant le foie et maudissant l'étrange politique qui leur interdit de mettre ces singuliers voisins à la raison. Finalement, les Figuigiens se souciant fort peu de menaces éternelles sans sanction, expulseront et assassineront leurs résidents, aussi bien le Marocain que le Français à moins, comme cela s'est vu, que le premier, avant tout, Musulman, prenne parti et fasse cause commune avec eux.

Ou bien, la présence d'une force de police équivalente à une garnison permanente mettant le holà à ce gâchis, viendra imposer le respect dû aux commandements des résidents, et les protégera contre leurs turbulents administrés. Nous n'en demandons pas davantage, mais la mémorable conception fera assister les contemporains à un spectacle capable de les frapper d'étonnement, de stupeur.

L'oasis sera un pays Marocain. Le Traité stipulera sa nationalité, sa dépendance du Chérif. Comme le Chérif est radicalement impuissant à l'occuper, à le conserver, à le gouverner, à l'administrer, il faudra bien que nous nous en chargions à sa place.

Nous pousserons l'extrême amour de la paix avec le Maroc jusqu'à nous emparer de Figuig, y faire la police, y maintenir les ksour en paix les uns avec les autres, non pas pour notre compte, mais bien pour le compte du Chérif.

C'est en son nom que nous jouerons cette curieuse comédie. C'est nous qui agirons, ferons obéir, et ce sera son drapeau qui flottera sur les kasbah de ses bourgs.

Qu'on ne rie pas. Il le faudra bien. Puisque lui ne peut pas diriger, contenir ce peuple, qu'il ne dispose d'aucune force, qu'il n'a aucun accès praticable au pays, qu'il lui est impossible d'y faire acte de souveraineté, tandis que la France, son amie, sa voisine, son alliée possède en abondance ce qui lui manque, soldats, canons, argent, et le reste, avec une bonne petite voie ferrée allant d'Oran à Figuig même, il est tout naturel que nous lui rendions ce service dont il y a lieu d'espérer qu'il se montrera reconnaissant.

Nous, Français, nous jouirons du séduisant privilège d'avoir un Résident en permanence à Figuig. Sa tâche sera pénible et l'exercice de ses fonctions délicat. Le Maroc, de son côté, y entretiendra un Caïd du Maghsen. Il devra le payer, sacrifice bien difficile à obtenir, à moins que ce haut fonctionnaire ne se paie lui-même sur la matière gouvernable, son sort ne nous paraît pas enviable.

Figuig, enclave Marocaine, noyée dans un territoire Français où nomidisent les Doui-Menia et les Oulad-Djerir désormais soumis, paraît un peu bien isolé de son Gouvernement. De routes, il n'en existe pas, mais plusieurs chaînes de montagnes de trois ou quatre milliers de mètres d'altitude en tiennent lieu. Il y a aussi à tenir

compte des aimables tribus des Aïth Tserrouchen, des Aïth Mguilt, des Aïth Addidou, des Aïth Izdek, des Aïth Atto, des Beni-Guil, &c., qui admettent la suprématie du Chérif, quand elle se manifeste par une bonne colonne de 4,000 ou 5,000 hommes, avec canons et fusils à longue portée et encore ! Décidément les relations du Caïd Figuigien avec Marakech laisseront à désirer pour la commodité.

Heureusement, le territore Français et le chemin de fer d'Oran sont proches. Espérons qu'il en sera fait grand usage. Décidément, c'est le chaos. Si c'est le règne de la poudre que l'on cherche, c'est sûrement celui que l'on trouvera.

Si l'on me demandait de caractériser dans le moindre nombre de mots possible, l'essai du régime compliqué dont on est en train de tenter la perpétration, je dirais volontiers que c'est une œuvre d'Embrouilloun, ce frère du type Algérien Cacayous, qui embrouille tout ce qu'il dit, tout ce qu'il entend, tout ce qu'il pense, tout ce qu'il touche.

Création d'une enclave Marocaine au cœur d'un pays soumis au Gouvernement de la France, Embrouilloun. Présence d'un Résident Français dans une localité qui a vécu jusqu'à ce jour dans une farouche et fanatique indépendance, Embrouilloun. Prétention d'avoir recours au Maroc pour toutes les infractions aux stipulations signées alors que le pays a de temps immémorial échappé à tout semblant d'autorité Marocaine, Embrouilloun. Vouloir installer par persuasion une justice effective pour réprimer des attentants chez un peuple pour qui ces actes sont réputés œuvre agréable à Dieu, sans appuyer le Tribunal d'action d'une force armée pour l'application de ses Jugements et pour assurer la défense due à ses Magistrats, Embrouilloun. Tout, absolument tout, est Embrouilloun dans cette mirifique combinaison.

Si jamais elle arrive à voir le jour, olle durera l'espace d'un matin. Ce brave Sidi-Mohammed-ben-Guebbas doit être bien ennuyé.

Au fond, la question de Figuig est simple parce qu'elle est ostensible et aiguë. Elle exige une solution, qui n'est nullement compliquée, savoir la cessation des assassinats, des vols, des attentats incessants, journaliers. Dans cette affaire il y a trois éléments en présence :

Les Figuigiens, qui n'y comprennent rien, n'entendent mot à cette diplomatie, s'étonnent fort que l'on vienne troubler feurs habitudes, se croient en droit de rester ce qu'ils sont, ce qu'ils ont toujours été, et sont imbus de la conviction que si les Français ne prennent pas l'oasis, c'est uniquement parce que Mahomet ne veut pas qu'il s'en emparent, et que ses fidèles peuvent se livrer impunément, en parfaite sécurité, à tous les vols et meurtres qu'ils sont si heureux de commettre, et par lesquels ils accomplissent lucrativement leurs devoirs religieux impératifs.

Les Marocains à qui nous nous évertuons de prêter un pouvoir qu'ils n'ont pas et qui ergotent sur l'exercice d'une autorité qu'ils savent être fictive, mais qu'ils voudraient bien faire passer pour réelle.

Les Français qui entendent mettre leurs provinces Sahariennes en communication avec l'Algérie et la mer par un chemin de fer, tant pour en assurer l'administration économique que pour les protéger contre les agressions des Beraber et autres brigands nomades désertiques.

Mais les Français sont hypnotisés par l'idée fixe de ne rien faire qui puisse laisser douter de leurs bons sentiments à l'égard du Maroc. Cette préoccupation les domine au point de les condamner à subir sans sourciller les outrages, les provocations que leur prodigue une misérable peuplade dépourvue de tout titre à une patrie quelconque.

Voilà le vrai ; voilà le réel.

Eh bien, nous pensons qu'à cette question simple il faut une solution claire, nette, radicale, qui sera comprise par tout le monde. Il faut installer à Figuig une garnison ferme, active, énergique, pas du tout paperassière, ni fiscale.

Il faut exporter à la Nouvelle-Calédonie tous les auteurs de crimes, tous les artisans de désordre dont ces oasis sont infestées, et dont nos travailleurs et nos convois sont les victimes.

Il faut transférer d'Aïn-Sefra à Figuig le siège du Commandement Supérieur du Cercle Occidental du Sud, et pousser avec la dernière activité la construction du chemin de fer de la Sousfana jusqu'à Igli et Beni-Abbès, avec une gare qui n'aura plus à être blindée, celle-là, au cœur même de l'oasis de Zenaga.

On verra alors l'affaire se débrouiller toute seule. Les attentats cesseront. La paix intérieure, et même extérieure, renaîtra comme par enchantement. Cette population en viendra rapidement à se livrer à nous avec un empressement qui ne demande que l'occasion de se produire. Soyons certains qu'il existe un important parti Français à Figuig.

Il ne s'agit que d'en provoquer par nos actes l'expression pour qu'il se précipite de bon cœur, et même avec ardeur, dans l'ère de commerce, de progrès, de travail, et de prospérité dont la réunion à l'Algérie lui ouvre la porte toute grande.

L'histoire de l'occupation de notre Kabylie n'est pas si lointaine que nous en ayons oublié les origines et les enseignements.

No. 7.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 12. Secret.)
(Extract.)

Paris, January 10, 1902.

THE possibility and advantages of an intimate combination of the Latin races are themes which have been discussed by no means infrequently in the French press. There has been notoriously a drawing together of late years between France and Spain, and the chances of reconciling the interests of the two countries in the Mediterranean and in North-West Africa have attracted much attention and notice. It is not so easy to see how such a reconciliation can be effected, when it is well understood that M. Delcassé holds firmly the opinion that if there is any one question on which her interests would force France to draw the sword, it would be the interference of any Power whatever in Morocco. His Excellency has, it is said, repeatedly expressed his belief that it would be unwise for France to take any step, either at present or for some time to come, to disturb the *status quo* in that country, but has let it be clearly understood that France could never tolerate that the dominions of His Shereefian Majesty should fall under any other influence than her own.

No. 8.

Intelligence Division to Foreign Office.—(Received January 11.)

THE Director-General of Mobilization and Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to quote, for the information of Lord Lansdowne, the following extract from a private letter written by Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, on affairs in Morocco, dated the 27th ultimo:—

"Everything here is going well, but the French are very busy. The Mission that went to mark boundaries has returned; the natives would not allow them to enter the country. I am sure this has been brought about by the French. If I or anybody in authority went to any tribe here and told them I would give them protection, and that they were not to allow any Moorish officials to enter their district, they would at once do it. . . . The French are most bitter, and doing all they know to prejudice the Sultan against us, but, I am glad to say, without the least effect."

Winchester House, St. James' Square, S.W.,
January 11, 1902.

No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 3, 1902.

THE Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires informed me yesterday, that as the Moorish Government had apparently taken no steps for the arrest of the individual who had murdered a Portuguese-protected person some two months ago, he had suggested to his Government that he should give a specified limit of time within which the apprehension of the man must be effected. The accused is well known as well as the locality where he is hiding.

Should no satisfactory steps have been taken before the expiration of the proposed period, M. d'Oliveira presumed that his Government would then adopt energetic

measures. M. d'Oliveira further stated that when the accused was apprehended and his guilt proved, he would request that the extreme penalty should be inflicted, as the murder was a deliberate one.

I imagine that the Moorish Government are not very desirous of seizing the culprit, and will, I feel confident, be indisposed to condemn him to death.

The victim was a Hebrew usurer, who had, I am told, rendered himself hated throughout the country side by his exactions. Two men are in prison at Dar-al-Baida on the charge of being accomplices in the crime though not the actual perpetrators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 10.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 185 of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Mogador relative to the condition of the prison in that place, and stating that you have drawn the attention of the Sultan, unofficially, to the facts as reported by Mr. Madden, and expressed the hope that an amelioration in the condition of this and other prisons in Morocco will shortly be affected.

Your action in the matter has my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 17, 1902.

I AM informed by the French Minister that he is sending M. de la Martinière, his First Secretary, in a man-of-war to Rabat to-morrow with a request to the Sultan that he should fix an early date to receive him at that place. This sudden change of programme is curious, as the French Minister had decided originally to await the Sultan's arrival at Fez. The Sultan will now presumably have to postpone his departure from Rabat for Fez in order to receive French Minister, although he had intended to leave immediately after my visit.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 19, 1902.

I AM informed by the Austrian Minister that he has learnt, on what he considers to be trustworthy authority, that instructions have been given to the French Minister to inform the Sultan that unless His Majesty abandons the predilection for English surroundings and advice, which he is at present showing, certain measures will have to be taken by France on the frontier which the Moorish Government will not find agreeable. Count Creuville, my Austrian colleague, is very positive that these instructions have been issued, and that when the French Minister visits the Sultan they will be carried out.

The German Minister has informed me that he received instructions last night by telegraph to visit the Sultan early in February next.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 2. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 7, 1902.

THE German Minister informed me that the letters which the German Emperor had addressed to the Sultan, thanking His Majesty for the special Mission which had been dispatched to Berlin in July last, had recently been delivered at the Shereefian Court.

These letters had been retained by order of the Emperor owing to the incidents which had occurred on the return of El Menebhi to Morocco, but owing to the re-establishment of the special Envoy in his master's favour, Baron de Mentzingen lately received instructions to forward these to their destination.

I am privately informed from the Moorish Court that the Sultan was much gratified on receiving the letters, and has replied in cordial terms, expressing at the same time his confidence in and high opinion of his late Envoy to the Court of Berlin.

The German Minister has, apparently, as yet received no definite information as to when the German officers, who are to be the bearers of the decorations for the Sultan, are likely to arrive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 7, 1902.

I INQUIRED of the German Minister when M. Luderitz, who has been appointed German Consul at Morocco City and at Fez, with the view of being in constant attendance at the Court, was likely to leave for his post. Baron de Mentzingen said that the the Moorish Government had suggested that M. Luderitz should defer taking up his post until the Sultan arrived at Fez, and that though he had asked to be furnished with some approximate date, he had received no reply.

He did not purpose to send M. Luderitz to Rabat where the Sultan is at present, as he considered this would be inconvenient.

I understand that the Moorish Government are a little perplexed by the intention of the German Government to have a Consular officer in attendance on the Court, as they fear it may create an inconvenient precedent, and I know that the French Legation do not view the proposal with favour.

Baron de Mentzingen took this opportunity of alluding to a report which had appeared in the press of the arrival of a German physician to be attached to the Sultan. He said that the report was not quite accurate as the German doctor had been engaged by El Menebhi as his domestic physician, and that this had been arranged privately by El Menebhi when at Berlin, and without consultation with the German Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Daralbaida, reporting certain news of some interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 147. Confidential.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, December* 30, 1901.

THE Sultan, since his arrival at Rabat, has frequently sent for Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos, and the latter has sometimes accompanied His Majesty out riding.

On one of these occasions last week the Sultan signed to Mr. Neroutsos to ride nearer, and then asked him if it were true that the English were in great difficulties in India. Mr. Neroutsos promptly replied in the negative, and His Majesty then said that he had received his information from the Commander of the French Military Mission. Later in the day, Mr. Neroutsos was in conversation with the Minister for War, Kaid-el-Mehedi Menebhi, who told him that the French were always endeavouring to impress upon the Sultan that the British nation's power in the world was on the decline.

Mr. Neroutsos informs me that His Shereefian Majesty evinced much delight when he discovered he had been misinformed.

Lest His Majesty should again question Mr. Neroutsos on the subject, I have informed the latter concerning what actually occurred on the frontier. The French Commander was possibly simply repeating what he had read in the French papers. The latter have had a great deal to say of late on the subject of British difficulties in India, the "Temps" even having a leading article on the subject.

The Sultan takes a great deal of interest in foreign affairs, and sensational headings are bound to attract his attention.

I understand that recently eight Oomana and sixteen Adool have been appointed from the people of Rabat and Sallee to proceed to the tribes of the Gharb for the purpose of inaugurating the new scheme of taxation in that portion of the country.

An English merchant, travelling agent for Messrs. Forwood Brothers, has just come here from Mogador.

Yesterday I had a long conversation with him. This gentleman speaks Arabic fluently, and his duty is to report frequently to his principals on the condition and prospects of the country from a commercial and political point of view. He informs me that the Taxation Commissioners had just returned to Mogador from the provinces of Shiedma and Haha. Their progress had met with a gratifying reception, but the people were still a little bit suspicious that the new scheme might mean their having to satisfy the greed of Commissioners as well as their Governors, but all natives declared that if their fears were not well founded then, indeed, they had hit upon happy days.

My informant further told me that a French traveller, named Henri Corbu [?], who said he was correspondent for "Le Matin," had arrived at Mogador.

This gentleman stated that he had visited Fez and went thence overland to Algeria, whence he embarked for Tangier and this coast. He was now arranging for a visit to Marrakesh, and contemplated making the journey from that city to Fez by the most direct route, which has been rarely traversed by Europeans.

M. Corbu impressed my informant as being an intelligent and liberal-minded man. He told people in Mogador that every one was very much mistaken in believing what papers stated about French influence in Morocco. Common belief in this direction was going to receive a rude awakening. In his travels he had found that no one was thinking anything of the French, and there was even a dislike to them. On another occasion the subject of conversation was the Sultan. The common opinion was that His Majesty was quite a boy, entirely given over to all sorts of frivolities.

M. Corbu stated that his impression was very different and he exclaimed that although he was comparatively a stranger he believed the general opinion among foreigners and in Europe was very much mistaken. He had come to the conclusion that the Sultan was a most exceptional man and liberal minded, and he believes that things are going to happen in Morocco which will astonish the whole world.

"The country is not going to stand still, you will see a great awakening."

I venture to repeat to your Excellency all the above as my informant is an intelligent man and is on very friendly terms with foreigners although he is an Englishman. Of course, I do not know who M. Corbu really is, but he evidently has good credentials, and French Consular officers appear to take unusual pains to show him attention.

About three weeks ago three Frenchmen arrived here. They are said to be military

officers. They proceeded inland, and on their return here a few days ago it was said that they had been to Marrakesh. They have now gone to Rabat and are expected back shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 9, 1902.

I AM informed that the expedition which the Sultan has dispatched to procure the release of the Spanish captives intends to continue its march in a few days.

It now numbers about 2,000 infantry, 1,400 tribal levies and eight guns.

The Commander of the expedition told my informant that he had no trustworthy news as to the captives, but that his orders were to find them dead or alive. The reported combination of the tribes to resist the advance of the Sultan's troops appears to have broken down, as the Chiefs of some of the tribes have already come into the camp and made their submission, at the same time declaring their loyalty to the Sultan.

The Commander of the expedition also stated that he had received instructions to notify the Spanish Legation the date of the commencement of his operations so that a Spanish officer might accompany the advance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1902.

I HAD some conversation to-day with the French Ambassador in regard to Morocco.

His Excellency called my attention to the debates which had recently taken place in the French Chamber upon this question.

The French Government, he told me, was desirous of maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, and preventing "la question Maroquine" from being raised. They had, therefore, endeavoured to come to terms with the tribes, and to lay down a boundary between their possessions and those of the Sultan, based upon tribal limits, and calculated to be for the advantage of all concerned. He earnestly hoped that the rumours which had been current in the French press, and which had been referred to in the debates of which he had spoken, rumours which pointed to the attempt on the part of Great Britain to create for herself exclusive interests in Morocco, might prove to be unfounded.

I had, his Excellency went on to say, reassured him on the question of certain commercial arrangements which the Government of Morocco had entered into at our instance at the time of Menebhi's Mission. It was now, however, stated that we had been endeavouring to obtain exclusive control of the telegraphic and postal services and in regard to railway construction. Similar designs were attributed to us in the matter of loans, although it was reported that the German Government was competing in this same direction, and was endeavouring to induce the Sultan's Government to accept a German financial adviser.

I told M. Cambon that the persons who attached importance to these rumours must be very credulous. We naturally expected to have our share in the development of new industrial enterprises, but we were not in the habit of seeking for exclusive privileges, and, so far as I was aware, no attempt had been made to obtain them.

I had heard similar rumours as to attempts to establish a French ascendency in Morocco. We had been told, for example, that there had been French intrigues against Kaid Maclean, who had earned the Sultan's confidence and had certainly not abused it, and there were plenty of people ready to warn us that the frontier arrangements made

by the French authorities with the tribes were of a kind unduly favourable to France. We had not, however, questioned the good faith of these settlements, and it seemed to me desirable that neither Power should show itself unduly suspicious of the other.

His Excellency observed that such reports existed, and that he had felt bound to mention them to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 18, 1902.

THE French Minister called on me yesterday evening, and said that he wished to inform me that, after due consideration, he had decided to pay a visit to the Sultan at Rabat in order to present his credentials, instead of deferring this act till His Majesty reached Fez. As he was anxious to settle the date of his visit with as little delay as possible, he intended to send M. de la Martiniére, his First Secretary, to Rabat to-day, and in order to facilitate that gentleman's journey the French Government had kindly placed a cruiser at his disposal.

M. St. René Taillandier added that he did not wish to clash with my visit or with that of the Austro-Hungarian Minister, and he, therefore, wished to know when I should have terminated my stay at Rabat.

I told my French colleague that I was leaving here on the 20th instant, and that I hoped to return about the 4th or 5th proximo; but that it was easier to be positive as to dates of arrival at the Sultan's Court than as to times of departure from it.

I added that I had just received a letter from the Court stating that the Sultan intended to leave for Fez very shortly; and my Austrian colleague told me last night that he had been officially requested by the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to reach Rabat not later than the 28th instant as His Majesty was proceeding, as soon as possible, to Fez.

M. St. René Taillandier said he would have to adapt his movements accordingly; but that he would be able to see more clearly after M. de la Martiniére's Mission to the Court.

This sudden change in the plans of the French Minister is curious, as quite recently he reiterated to me his intention of deferring his visit to the Sultan till late spring. Moreover the despatch of the First Secretary in a man-of-war, while the French First Drogoman is already at Rabat, and presumably would be able to make all necessary arrangements, seems to be investing the preliminaries of a visit with somewhat unnecessary formality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 20, 1902.

THE Austro-Hungarian Minister called on me yesterday, and said that he wished to tell me, confidentially, that he had learnt that the French Minister had received instructions to speak very strongly to the Sultan in regard to His Majesty's supposed predilection for British advice and companions of British nationality. The French Minister was to state clearly to the Sultan that if His Majesty continued to be guided by British advisers and to surround himself with British employés of various grades and classes, the French would be obliged to take serious notice of this attitude,

and adopt such measures on the frontier as would be extremely disagreeable to the Moorish Government.

I asked Count Creuville whether his information was from a trustworthy source, and he replied that he had derived it from a colleague whom the French Minister had taken into his confidence. I asked what were the measures which were contemplated on the frontier, and Count Creuville said that he was not quite sure, but believed an occupation of Tafilelt might be projected.

Although Count Creuville was very positive that his information was accurate, I have my doubts whether a declaration of the character he described will in reality be made. I am perfectly well aware that the French Legation is much perturbed by what I consider exceedingly exaggerated reports of the British sympathies of the Sultan; but nothing to my knowledge has occurred, or indeed is likely to occur, which would justify a menace on the part of the French Government.

I may add that the German Minister informed me that he had received telegraphic instructions to proceed, in the early days of February, to Rabat, for the purpose of conveying to the Sultan the decoration which was bestowed on His Majesty by the German Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 20.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 29, 1902.

M. CAMBON'S observations to your Lordship on the 22nd instant about reported British intrigues in Morocco, which you have been so good as to record in your despatch to me No. 30 of that date, are quite of a kind to confirm the opinion of his diplomatic capacities which I have heard from those who have had occasion to be brought into more intimate association with him than I have ever enjoyed.

I have been repeatedly assured—and that from several independent quarters—that his relations with M. Delcassé are by no means cordial.

Whether this is so or not, I have been struck by the fact that M. Delcassé told me that, on the occasion of M. Cambon's very frequent visits to Paris, where he has an apartment, they rarely see one another.

As I understand from your Lordship's despatch, M. Cambon broached the subject of Morocco on his own initiative; but, although I apprehend that M. Delcassé would hardly have authorized its being raised in such a clumsy manner, I take advantage of the opportunity to repeat that it is a question upon which France is at this moment more than usually susceptible, and that the opponents of the existing Cabinet have lately been active in their allusions both in the press and the Chamber to the supineness of the latter in protecting French interests in a country where they are of vital importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 21.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting on the distribution of French troops in the oases of the Sahara and in Southern Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Paris, January* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, the following distribution of French troops to the south of Algeria:—

The Oases of Sahara.

Fort MacMahon	50
Fort Mirabel	50
El Goléah	650
Posts recently created—	
In Salah	190
Aoulef	280
Ardrar	260
Hassi-Guedmafa	95
Timimoun	290
Total	1,865

In the South of Oran.

Djenien-bou-Reg	160
Ain Sefra	1,625
Posts recently created—	
Beni Abbès	170
Igli	600
Taghit	370
Hassi-el-Mir	200
Djenan-el-Dar	600
Duveyrier	420
Hadgérat M'Guil	530
Total	4,675

As 3,500,000 fr. only are included in the Budget for 1902, it is evident that with an effective of 6,600 men and 12,000 camels for transporting rations, the next Chamber will have to vote a supplementary credit.

It is not probable that the mission of General Cauchemez and the Moorish Ambassador near Duveyrier will modify the situation; the posts must be ready to march for many months yet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 22, 1902.

I ARRIVED here yesterday in His Majesty's ship "Illustrious," and on landing was received by the Minister of War and some high Court functionaries. The streets were lined with horse and foot soldiers, and everything was done to give me a cordial welcome. The Grand Vizier, Ci Fedal Gharnit, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdulkrim Ben Sliman, paid me visits soon after I had reached the house which the Government have allotted to me.

The Sultan was good enough to express his readiness to receive me in formal audience to-day, but while thanking His Majesty for his courtesy, I requested permission to have the pleasure of waiting upon him postponed to the 23rd instant, as to-day was a very sad anniversary for all British subjects, and one on which I should not like to take part in any public ceremony.

His Majesty was pleased to accede to my suggestion, and readily understood and sympathized with the reason I had given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rabat, January 22, 1902.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs paid me a second visit late yesterday evening, as he said he wished to give me a private message from the Sultan. After some preamble, he explained to me that His Majesty has been very desirous of visiting the "Illustrious," and had been looking forward with keen interest to inspecting a British man-of-war. This intention of His Majesty had come to the ears of the French Legation, and he had received what Abdulkrim Ben Sliman termed a "stern intimation" that if the above project were carried into execution, a similar visit to a French man-of-war would be insisted upon. The Sultan, Ben Sliman added, was not accustomed to journeys on the water, and dreaded being compelled to repeat the experiment on which he had decided in regard to the "Illustrious." Moreover, His Majesty had been given to understand that a public visit to a British vessel would not be favourably received. He was commanded in consequence to ask me to permit the Sultan to abandon his intention of visiting the "Illustrious."

I told Ben Sliman that as soon as I had been informed of the wish of the Sultan to inspect a British man-of-war, I had suggested to the Admiral Commanding the Mediterranean Station that a vessel worthy of His Majesty's attention should be sent here, and Sir John Fisher had readily complied with my proposal and had dispatched one of our finest battle-ships.

I had, of course, no desire to cause the Sultan any embarrassment, and perfectly appreciated the difficulties he had indicated. I only regretted that the British navy would not have an opportunity of showing His Majesty some hospitality.

Ben Sliman thanked me for so promptly falling in with His Majesty's views; and added that, perhaps, I was unaware of the difficult position in which His Majesty was being constantly placed by his neighbour, but on these points he would speak to me more at length on another occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Rabat, January 23, 1902.*

THE Sultan received me in audience this morning at 10 A.M., and I presented the letter from the King accrediting me as His Majesty's Minister to the Shereefian Court. I have the honour to transmit copy of the speech which I delivered on the occasion and a translation of His Majesty's reply. I was accompanied by the staff of the Mission, as also by Captain Finnis and seven other officers from His Majesty's ship "Illustrious."

The Sultan made a noteworthy and sensible change in the ceremony of audience. Formerly, it was customary for the Minister to be standing in an open space, and the Sultan rode in on his horse and remained mounted during the ceremony.

This has always been considered by foreign Representatives as somewhat derogatory, as it was treating them on exactly the same footing as any provincial Governor, who is thus received when arriving at Court to pay his respects.

On the present occasion the Sultan was in an inner room of a small Palace, and remained seated during the audience, while the ceremony was conducted on similar lines to those prevailing in European Courts. This precedent once established will naturally be followed at the reception of other foreign Ministers; and the innovation will, I know, be gladly welcomed by all my colleagues.

I may state that His Majesty was evidently in very good health, and was most gracious and amiable during the audience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Speech by Sir A. Nicolson.

IN handing to your Majesty the letter with which I have been intrusted by His Majesty the King, my august Sovereign, accrediting me as his Minister to your Majesty's Court, I would respectfully request your Majesty to graciously accept my grateful thanks for the unfailing courtesy and consideration which have been extended to me during my residence in Morocco both on the part of your Majesty and of your Majesty's Government, when I was the Minister of my late Sovereign of ever blessed memory.

I would wish to express the fervent hope that my humble efforts may lead to the strengthening of the ties of friendship which so happily exist between Morocco and Great Britain; and I can assure your Majesty that my august Sovereign and his Government are earnestly desirous that all prosperity and happiness may attend your Majesty, and that your life may be prolonged for the lasting benefit and advancement of the country and people whom Providence has committed to your charge. I trust that I may always be found a faithful interpreter of the friendly feelings with which my Sovereign and my Government are animated towards your Majesty, and I know that in the discharge of my duties I can confidently look to your Majesty for a continuance of that gracious good-will and confidence with which your Majesty has hitherto been pleased to honour me.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Speech by the Sultan of Morocco.

(Translation.)

WELCOME to the letter of the Friend, the Good Counsellor, the King of Great Britain, &c.

I have no doubt as to the sincerity of his friendship and good-will, and of that of his Government; as also I have no doubt of his interest in my welfare and in that of my people, following in this respect the course pursued by our friend, his beloved mother, towards us and towards our ancestors. I thank His Majesty for this most cordially.

I do not cease to regard the King of Great Britain as a support in facilitating the interests of Morocco.

And welcome to you, oh friend, and to all your suite.

I have no doubt of your good demeanour and of the sincerity of your good-will, as also of your efforts towards good during your residence in our kingdom. All the kindness which may be shown you will not be misplaced. I trust to a successful issue of all the good projects through your good mediation.

As also, I hope, for the continuance of prosperity and welfare to our friend the King of Great Britain and his Government.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rabat, January 23, 1902.*

I HAD a private interview with El Mehedi El Menebhi yesterday evening, and his Excellency spoke to me at some length on the attitude which the French Minister was assuming towards the Moorish Government. He said he was convinced that the intention of the French Minister was to establish an exclusive and predominant French influence at the Court, and, as El Menebhi expressed it, the Sultan would then be unable to drink a cup of tea without permission from the French Legation.

I told El Menebhi that from certain indications which I had noticed, his information was correct, and that though I was unaware in what form the French Minister would present his requests, I thought it probable that the Moorish Government would find him on his arrival somewhat exacting. To my mind the course the Sultan should pursue was plain and simple. It was essential that His Majesty should not give the slightest ground for complaint on the part of the French authorities. He should be as courteous and as amiable as possible, as His Majesty should remember

that the French were powerful neighbours, who could find many opportunities of rendering themselves inconvenient without necessarily reviving any international question.

The Sultan, I added, was endeavouring, and rightly endeavouring, to bring some order and system into his internal administration. No one could dispute his right to do so, nor indeed question the wisdom of his policy. His Majesty, in my opinion, should give no undue preference to any individual country, but seek to satisfy all and adopt measures which were of general interest and to the advantage of his own country and of all other nations. If the French Minister intimated that he was displeased with any acts of the Sultan, His Majesty could fairly ask him to be specific and precise in his complaints, and if there should appear to be any just and reasonable grievances, the Sultan would doubtless do his best to redress them without delay. Personally, I was unaware of any; and, indeed, I was personally convinced that the recent acts of the Sultan only invited approval and encouragement.

El Menebhi asked if I would be prepared to repeat what I said to the Sultan; and I expressed my readiness to state my opinions with perfect frankness to His Majesty if I were afforded an opportunity of doing so. I saw no need of reserve or secrecy. A young Sovereign was doing his best to reform and improve his administration, to encourage foreign trade and develop his country. He should do so cautiously and prudently, and I was sure that if he were animated with such intentions, and carefully avoided showing any special preference or favour for any individual nation, any well-wisher of Morocco, and my Government was certainly one, could but wish His Majesty God-speed on the path on which he was entering.

The above is a short summary of a lengthy conversation, but from what I have heard during the short time I have been here, I am inclined to believe that the Sultan is extremely anxious and nervous, and I thought that some encouragement would not be ill-timed. I gather that the Sultan has no great strength of will, when dealing with a foreign Representative who is so well equipped as my French colleague, and he might be influenced, in a moment of alarm, to surrender himself absolutely to any terms which might be dictated to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 26.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 4, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, giving a summary of your conversation with El Mehedi-el-Menebhi relative to the attitude which the French Minister is assuming towards the Moorish Government, and the course which the Sultan should in consequence pursue.

I approve the language used by you as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 4, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 13, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the abandonment by the Sultan of Morocco of his intention to visit His Majesty's ship "Illustrious."

I approve the language used by you to Abdulkrim Ben Sliman on the subject as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January 25, 1902.*

THE Sultan requested me to wait upon him yesterday evening, and to bring with me only the Legation Interpreter, Mr. Irwin, as he desired to speak to me on some important questions. I accordingly proceeded to a small building outside the Palace walls, which His Majesty uses as a billiard-room, and I found the Sultan waiting for me, attended by El Menebhi, who left immediately I arrived.

The Sultan received me most courteously, but quite unceremoniously, and, after I had complimented him on his efforts to improve his Administration, and had stated the interest with which my Sovereign and Government were following his praiseworthy measures to that end, the conversation turned on the approaching visit of the French Minister. His Majesty inquired of me what I thought was the object of this mission, which appeared to have been undertaken in some haste, as he was not expecting to see my French colleague till the Court reached Fez. I told the Sultan that reports had reached me that it was possible M. St. René Taillandier might make some observations on the supposed inclination of His Majesty to surround himself with English advisers, and might insist, or suggest, I was unaware what form his representations might assume, that he should look for guidance and counsel from the French authorities alone. The Sultan replied that, from remarks which had been dropped casually in conversation by French Agents, he feared that that would be the case, but that he did not intend to abandon himself to French control, and he asked me what course he should follow.

I spoke to His Majesty in the same sense as I had already done to El Menebhi, and which I have reported in a former despatch. I impressed on the Sultan the necessity of giving no cause whatever for any complaints on the part of the French Minister, and of showing no special preference for any one nation. I thought he should keep on the best possible terms with his neighbour, devote himself to the task of bringing order and security into his country, and steer a straight course. If he followed this line, I did not see how any difficulties could arise or any obstacles be placed in his path by foreign nations.

The Sultan thanked me cordially for my remarks, and promised to follow my advice, expressing with great warmth his friendship and gratitude to the King and Government of Great Britain.

The audience lasted for some time, but His Majesty apparently had no revelations to make, though he had intimated previously through private channels that he had much to disclose to me. It is possible that he may do so on a future occasion, as he intimated his desire to see me again very shortly.

His Majesty, though intelligent and anxious to learn, and evidently desirous of carrying through his reform projects, gave me the impression of being easily led by flattery and cajolery, and of not being possessed of much tenacity of purpose. If he were treated with any harshness he would, I think, become stubborn and resentful; but I have doubts whether, if he were approached by other methods, he would not readily yield to any suggestions, especially if they held out prospects of permitting him to enjoy his life in innocent amusements and assured him immunity from internal and external difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January 26, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit an extract from a private letter I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting a rumour that the French forces have occupied El Mader, a place a little to the west of Ain Shair.

I took an opportunity to-day of inquiring of El Menebhi whether it was a fact that the Doui Menia and Oulad Djerir tribes had made their submission to the Governor-

General of Algeria during the recent visit of the latter to the frontier. I said I had seen a report in the newspapers to the above effect.

His Excellency said he was positive they had not done so, though he admitted that by the Paris arrangement these two tribes, as well as the inhabitants of Kenadsa, were to be permitted to select under which jurisdiction, Moorish or French, they would wish to remain. He was confident they would elect to remain the subjects of the Sultan.

El Menebhi added that he frequently received letters from Bou Amama, and that this influential Chief, after some hesitation, was anxious to initiate hostilities against the French, and that he had difficulty in restraining him. This confirms the report on that point in Mr. Macleod's letter.

El Menebhi further said that he believed the Moorish Commission were now at the frontier at Djenan Dar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *Fez, January* 16, 1902.

ACCORDING to reports which have been brought here by natives just arrived from near Ain Shair, and who have left their homes about fifteen days ago, a party of French soldiers have installed themselves at El Mader-el-Masarin. The natives' story has it that, the Moorish arrangement with France being for the frontier to be fixed at wherever the French troops were already posted, the French have sent the party referred to so that the Moorish Commissioners will find them at El Mader, and consequently have to allow that district to be French. The Sultan's Commissioners are said to be at Djenan Dar. Bon Amama, by the same report, is alleged to be indignant at the occupation of El Mader, and to be doing what he can to organize violent resistance to it, if the French do not withdraw.

The men who have brought the report hail from villages some 30 miles from El Mader, and I gather that all of them are speaking merely of what they had heard, and none of them have seen the French troops in question, nor can they give any details of their numbers.

It seems, on the whole, a report to be very cautiously received; but I mention it in case you may have other information which may confirm or refute it.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 29, 1902.

I TOOK an opportunity of mentioning to the Sultan the good impression which had been made in my country by the measures he was contemplating for the improvement of the prisons in Morocco, and I trusted that these excellent intentions would be carried into effect.

His Majesty replied that he had caused several hundred prisoners to be released, and that Inspectors would supervise the proper administration of the prisons. I was about to give His Majesty some details which had come to my knowledge when our conversation was unfortunately interrupted.

This afternoon I spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the same subject, and urged him to see that the reforms in the prison administration, which were projected, were not allowed to remain a dead letter. Even here, at Rabat, I was informed that the city prison was much overcrowded, and that there was not a sufficiency of light and ventilation, and that the sanitary arrangements were in a deplorable condition. At Mogador, also, I had received reports of great mortality among the prisoners, and that a little care would remedy these grave defects.

Ci Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman took note of what I had said, and told me that Inspectors would very shortly be appointed for each prison; that a register would be kept of the offence of each prisoner, and of his term of detention; and that every care would be taken to see that the prisons were kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition, and that the prisoners received a proper supply of food. His Excellency added that these measures would have been put into force before now, but that the Sultan's journey and other pressing matters had caused a delay.

I will continue to urge the introduction of these very necessary prison reforms until I hear that they are in fair working order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 31.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 29, 1902.

I BELIEVE that a cause of some dissatisfaction among certain of my colleagues and of comment among others is the presence of various British subjects at the Shereefian Court, and since my arrival here I have been inquiring into the matter. I find that there are actually here, or will very shortly be here, some twenty-five Englishmen who have been engaged in various capacities by the Sultan. These men, trustworthy and respectable as doubtless they are, do not render any service to British interests, while their employment causes, as I have remarked, a certain irritation among those who reproach the Sultan for his alleged English proclivities. Moreover, His Majesty invites some of them to his afternoon amusements, to the exclusion of members of other nationalities; and the fact that his leisure hours are spent among Christians of subordinate rank does not greatly please many of the higher classes of his own subjects.

I have conveyed to His Majesty, through a private channel, a suggestion that he should not increase the number of Englishmen already at the Court, and that, indeed, it would be desirable if he took an opportunity of gradually dispensing with the services of some of them. I advised that if he desired European assistance in his gardens or stables, or in other domestic concerns, he should select them from other nationalities without distinction; and I hinted that perhaps less familiarity with subordinate persons would not be misplaced.

His Majesty took my observations in very good part and thanked me for my advice, stating that he would certainly follow it. He added that the points to which I had called his attention had not occurred to him, and that he was grateful that I had caused them to be mentioned to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Austro-Hungarian Minister arrived here yesterday in the war-vessel the "Panther."

Count Crenneville tells me that he intends to return to Tangier in a week's time, as the sole object of his visit is to present his credentials.

I believe that this is the first Austro-Hungarian Mission which has visited the Shereefian Court for very many years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 33.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 31, 1902.

I HAVE been confidentially informed that it is the intention of the Sultan, after he has established himself at Fez, to make a tour along his eastern frontier, and to take measures for insuring tranquillity and order on the border.

His Majesty also wishes to visit several districts where the Ruler of Morocco has been rarely seen, and to impress on the people the necessity of abandoning their present lawless mode of life, and of living in peace and amity with their neighbours.

This intention of His Majesty is, I venture to think, a laudable one, as the more he sees of his country and people, and the more the latter come to know their Sovereign, the better will it be for both. Moreover, the journies of the Sultan are no longer a burden on the people, as all supplies are fully and punctually paid for; and I understand that His Majesty intends to travel with a far less numerous following than has been customary on Royal progresses in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 31, 1902.

AT a private audience which the Sultan granted to me yesterday, the conversation turned on the question of introducing railways into Morocco, and I inquired of His Majesty whether I had rightly understood that he wished to undertake a somewhat extensive railway scheme, and to obtain a loan for the supply of the necessary funds. The Sultan replied that such was his intention.

I requested permission from His Majesty to speak frankly to him on this important question.

I explained to him that, in my opinion, it would be extremely unwise on his part, in the present condition of his country, to apply to foreign capitalists for money to carry out a costly railway scheme. The financiers would require substantial securities for any money they might lend, and the only securities available were the Customs revenues. It would further, I was sure, be laid down as an essential condition that some European control and supervision over the collection of these revenues should be established; and, once European control was introduced into any branch of his Administration, it would be difficult to foresee where it would stop, and His Majesty might some day find that his independence was seriously impaired.

The Sultan said that I then advised him neither to build railways nor to contract a loan. I told His Majesty that I ventured to lay before him what I considered to be very grave objections to a loan; but that, as regards railways, a modified scheme might be feasible. The construction of a light railway from an important port, like Casablanca for instance, running into a rich grain-growing district, would in all probability be a remunerative enterprise; and a light railway of this character, say of 30 or 40 miles in length, could be built by the Moorish Government out of their own resources. If it succeeded, and I believed that it would, extensions of the system might gradually be made; but the main point to which I wished to draw His Majesty's attention was that the cost of all works of public utility, such as light railways, roads, bridges, and port improvements, should be defrayed out of Moorish funds, and that applications to foreign money markets should be avoided. To my mind His Majesty should devote all his energies to the development and encouragement of foreign commerce, and the establishment of order and security in his country. He should set slowly and steadily to work towards these ends, and, looking to the fertility of the country, I was sure that progress would be rapid and satisfactory. Already the modest measures he had wisely taken in favour of the export trade had produced most satisfactory results, and as people gained confidence more and more land would be brought under cultivation, and a great change would come over the face of his country. I could assure him that if he patiently and

steadfastly pursued the course he had begun, and in regard to which I ventured to offer him my sincere congratulations, he would do more to consolidate his position than by any other means, and he would soon be ruling over a contented and prosperous population.

His Majesty listened very attentively to my remarks, of which the above is a short summary, and, in expressing his gratitude for the freedom with which I had spoken, stated that he was determined to follow the advice which I had given him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Rabat, January* 31, 1902.

THE Sultan informed me yesterday that the new scheme of taxation had been most successful in those districts in which it had been put in force, and that the people were much gratified with its introduction. I told His Majesty that the reports which I had received entirely bore out this statement.

The Sultan, I am informed, recently called before him all the provincial Governors who are in attendance at the Court, and made them take an oath on the Koran that they would give no presents to any member of the Government, or of the Court, nor extort any money from the people under their jurisdiction. His Majesty caused the Governors to append their signatures to this oath, and told them that any infraction of this solemn engagement would be most severely punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Rabat, February* 2, 1902.

THE Foreign Minister requested me to call upon him yesterday as he had been commanded by the Sultan to speak to me on some important questions. I accordingly visited his Excellency and found the Minister of Finance and Cid Benasser Ghannam, a high functionary, also present.

The Foreign Minister said that the Sultan had informed him that he had held a conversation with me on the subject of a loan, and that His Majesty had expressed the desire that I should hear the opinion of some financial experts and that, consequently, the two gentlemen now present would explain to me the financial situation.

The Minister of Finance then gave a lengthy statement which I may summarize as follows:—

Until quite recently the State expenditure had been considerably below the State revenues, but owing to the reforms which were being introduced into the Administration this satisfactory state of affairs would cease to exist. The alleviations afforded in the internal taxation would diminish the receipts, while the expenses would increase owing to all officials receiving fixed salaries. The Government would, therefore, have to face a deficit. Moreover, the Sultan was anxious to increase the number of his troops in order to establish order and security in the country, and also to make roads, build bridges, introduce railways, and improve the ports. All these enterprises would require a considerable outlay, and to meet the deficit and carry out the above-mentioned undertakings, the Government must perforce have recourse to a loan. They wished to borrow 1,500,000*l.*, and they desired to seek my advice on the subject.

In replying to the above observations I repeated the warnings I had already addressed to the Sultan, and on which I have reported in a previous despatch, as to the dangers involved in applying to foreign money markets. I spoke as strongly as I could on that point, observing that beyond the grave risk incurred in admitting foreign control over any branch of the Administration, the loan in the present condition of the country could only be raised on somewhat exacting terms. Personally, I doubted the necessity of a

loan, and I was of opinion that beneficial, if modest, measures could be introduced without the necessity of seeking for foreign financial assistance. I asked the Minister of Finance, in the first place, to give me roughly the amount of the normal State revenues and of the normal expenditure.

His Excellency seemed somewhat embarrassed at this question, and after consultation with his colleagues, stated that he would estimate the total revenue of the country at about 460,000*l.*, of which 150,000*l.* were furnished from the Customs revenues and the remainder from internal taxation.

I expressed my surprize at this very low estimate. I told his Excellency that it was clear he had under-estimated the Customs revenues. In 1900 the imports alone, if the duties were honestly collected, would have given quite, if not more than, 150,000*l.*, and the exports, which in that year exceeded the imports, would have furnished a large revenue. Further, it was difficult for me to believe that the internal taxes, even under the new system, would produce merely 300,000*l.*; this was a ridiculously low figure, and I said it was quite impossible for me to give any advice if I were not furnished with fairly trustworthy data.

It was then arranged that the Minister of Finance should reconsider his statistics and furnish a fresh statement at a meeting which was fixed for to-morrow.

Before leaving I again impressed on the Ministers that the Moorish Government should carry out any undertakings and improvements with their own resources alone; and that I was convinced that if order and security were established and encouragement given to agriculture and foreign commerce, no difficulty would be experienced in finding the necessary funds. Honest administration was an essential condition, and though I did not state this at the time, I am afraid that the scarcity of upright officials will prove a very serious stumbling-block.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Rabat, February* 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the French Minister arrived here yesterday morning, and was received with the usual ceremonial.

M. St. René Taillandier was unable to disembark here owing to the heavy bar, and proceeded in the battle-ship "Charlemagne" to Casablanca, whence he journeyed overland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that previous to my departure from Rabat I had two further interviews with the Moorish Ministers in regard to the financial situation.

They explained to me at considerable length that until the new system of taxation was in full working order the State revenues would be considerably below what they had hitherto been, and that indeed for the current year, as the Sultan had decided to practically collect no taxes, in order to give what they term a "rest" to the people, the Government would have to look to the Customs as the sole source of revenue. On the other hand the expenditure would be largely increased by unforeseen demands. They instanced under this head the following items.

As soon as the frontier with Algeria was settled the Moorish Government would be bound by the arrangement made at Paris to place customs houses and guards along the boundary: and these measures would entail an expenditure of 300,000*l.* to 400,000*l.*

Further, it would be necessary to establish some customs posts on the Sus frontier and maintain a force in that district at an annual cost of 30,000*l.*

The Riff country was in a condition of turmoil and disturbance, and an expedition would shortly be required there, at a cost of, at least, 150,000*l.*

The expedition, on account of the Spanish captives, would be a charge of about 60,000*l.*, while the Sultan's journey to Fez would cost about 80,000*l.* as His Majesty was defraying the expenses out of Government funds instead of, as in former years, obtaining forced contributions from the people. These items of extraordinary expenditure amounted, therefore, to about 720,000*l.*

The ordinary expenditure they estimated as follows: For palace and military expenditure 800,000*l.* were required, and salaries of officials under the new system would be about 300,000*l.* or close upon 2,000,000*l.* for the whole Budget. To meet this for the current year they had only the net customs revenues, which they estimated at 160,000*l.* The necessity of a loan was, therefore, clearly established. They had, nevertheless, taken into serious consideration my observations in regard to the dangers attending a loan, and had anxiously searched for some other sources of revenue. They thought they had discovered a means whereby they could emerge from their present straits, and which would enable them to tide over the time before the new taxes flowed in abundantly and before the recent measures for encouraging foreign commerce have given fruitful results.

The Government, they said, had decided to impose a tax on all real property in towns and they thereby expected to cover the large deficit with which they were threatened.

I observed to the Ministers that if the Sultan waived the collection of taxes for the current year it was clear that the expenditure would exceed the revenue: but I was under the impression that in certain districts the new taxes were being levied, in fact, I personally knew of cases where they had actually been paid, and also that in the other districts the old taxes were being collected. It seemed to me unwise to practically abandon all revenue, and at the same time to plunge into various extraordinary disbursements. I still maintained the objections to a loan, and I trusted that their very sanguine estimates of the produce of the new real property tax would be realized. At the same time I doubted if it could be imposed, assessed, and collected in a few months; and I should have thought it would have been more prudent to postpone several of the extraordinary disbursements, to collect with moderation the internal taxes and to exercise a very strict control over the customs revenues where it was manifest very serious leakages were occurring.

Personally, I was of opinion that with care the normal revenue would cover the normal expenditure, and if there were sudden calls for extraordinary charges surely the reserve funds could be drawn upon to meet them. The Ministers assured me that their disposable reserve stock was *nil*, and though the Sultan might have considerable hoards, these were jealously guarded as a sacred deposit, only to be drawn upon in case of very urgent need and when the safety of the country was in imminent danger.

I regret to state that I am of opinion that the Ministers were not perfectly frank with me and that their estimates are quite untrustworthy. I do not doubt that they are for the moment in some financial embarrassment, but not to the extent which they desired to impress on me, and I am quite sure that the real property tax in towns, though in itself a reasonable and just one, would certainly not cover the very large deficit they mentioned. I would remark that at our first interview I was informed that the loan was chiefly required for carrying out the projected reforms and improvements, such as railways, telegraphs, &c.; but at my subsequent conversation I was told that the loan was necessary to meet a sudden and unexpected financial emergency, and the question of railways and other enterprises was left unnoticed. I had in the interval between my first and later interviews received information which raised some suspicions in my mind as to the good faith of the Ministers, but this point I would reserve for a subsequent despatch as I fear the present one has extended to undue length. My only apology can be that the interviews were much prolonged, and I have endeavoured to give as short a summary of them as was possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 10, 1902.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch regarding the financial situation in Morocco, I have the honour to state that I have reasons for believing that the sudden abandonment of the desire for a loan and the substitution of a tax which would produce but modest returns, is to be ascribed to an offer on the part of the French Minister to assist the Moorish Government out of their difficulties.

Such an offer would probably be readily accepted and warmly recommended by two of the Ministers who had been appointed to discuss matters with me, I allude to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance.

Cid Benasser Ghannam, the third, would observe a passive attitude.

At my final audience of the Sultan I took an opportunity of telling His Majesty that I had had some long conversations with his Ministers who had painted to me a very dark picture of the financial situation. I was inclined to think they had taken a very pessimistic view, but that I would report to your Lordship fully on the subject.

In the meantime admitting for the moment that there were financial difficulties, I trusted that His Majesty would listen to no proposa., however attractively presented, which would offer a solution of the problem, without first communicating with me. Some proposals might conceal a danger, and as he had hitherto shown confidence in me, I hoped he would continue to do so, and not hastily embark on loans. If money were really needed I should be happy to consult with His Majesty's Government as to what arrangements could best be made to meet what I trusted was merely a temporary difficulty.

His Majesty promptly replied that there was no occasion for a loan, and that I might rely on his communicating fully and frankly with me through a confidential channel.

I have no doubt whatever that the French Minister was fully informed of what passed between the Ministers and myself, and from what I was told at Rabat I gather that it is quite possible M. St. René Taillandier suggested that funds might be found by France without the necessity of guarantees and securities being required. A loan on apparently easy terms would be a difficult gift to refuse, and I thought it advisable to give a warning to the Sultan, without too clearly specifying to what I alluded.

I am not in a position to control the accuracy of my information, but it seemed to me imprudent to leave the Sultan exposed to a possible temptation without sounding a warning note.

I informed El Menebhi of what had passed between the Ministers and myself, and he assured me that all the estimates they had supplied were inaccurate.

At the same time he was of opinion that for the next year or two money would be needed, as the recasting of the whole system of taxation and the allocation of fixed salaries to the officials would entail a temporary disturbance in the Treasury which would be embarrassing. He personally thought a loan would very shortly be necessary, and he laughed at the solution offered by a tax on real property, which was a very inadequate proposal.

If it should be the case that to meet the situation a loan is absolutely necessary, I venture to submit that it would be desirable if the Sultan were to apply to us in the first place before entertaining any other proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1902.

DURING my stay at Rabat I had opportunities of ascertaining the position of affairs at the Shereefian Court, and it may be of interest to your Lordship if I venture to report the impressions I was able to gather.

The Sultan retains in his own hands the supreme direction of Government business, and exercises a strict control over the acts of his Ministers. The Grand

Vizier, Ci Fedal Gharnit, appears to possess no influence, and to take no active part in public affairs. Abdulkrim-ben-Sliman, the Foreign Minister, is an intelligent and pains-taking official, and well versed in the duties which are intrusted to him. He enjoys, I think, to a certain degree the confidence of the Sultan, owing to his long experience; but he is a man of no energy, and is disposed to show but a lukewarm interest in progressive measures.

He is supposed to be a supporter of French interests, and to advise the Sultan to yield to any demands which may be presented by the French Government.

I am unable to say whether this is really the case. I have always found his Excellency very friendly, though not very communicative.

El Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, is the only Minister who is an intimate personal friend of His Majesty. The leisure moments of the Sultan are passed with him, and apparently their relations are cordial and sympathetic. The incidents of last year have rendered El Menebhi more prudent and tactful, and he abstains from all interfence with the Departments of his colleagues. His wealth, energetic character, and intimacy with the Sultan give him a high position, and his influence among the country tribes and people is considerable. He is disliked by the governing classes, and by the whole of the reactionary party, who form the great majority among the townspeople. He is still impetuous and impulsive; and though he appears to have regained the confidence of his master, I do not think that he places absolute reliance upon the continuity of the Royal favour.

The other Ministers are persons of no importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1902.

THE Spanish Minister told me to-day that he had been instructed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inquire of me whether it was a fact that I had requested the Sultan to grant Concessions to English Companies for the construction of railway and telegraph lines; and also for the erection of a bridge over the river between Rabat and Sallee.

I told M. de Ojeda that I had applied for no Concessions either for railways or any other enterprise. In regard to the bridge, the Sultan had engaged the services of an English engineer to make a survey and a report. This had been done, and I believed the engineer was about to return to England. I was not aware whether the Sultan had accepted the project or not; but as the Sultan had engaged the engineer on his own initiative, I had not concerned myself at all with the matter which was of purely local interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the German Minister left here to-day in a North-German Lloyd steamer for Rabat in order to confer on the Sultan the First Class of the Red Eagle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 1. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 10, 1902.

THE permission to export barley from Morocco was recently extended for a further period; and while at Rabat I took an opportunity of explaining to the Moorish Government that such a permission given for short terms was of little real benefit, as the uncertainty did not encourage either merchants or cultivators to take full advantage of the Concession. I therefore suggested that the export of barley should be permitted without any limit of time, the Government reserving the right to terminate it on giving a certain notice.

The Sultan was pleased to accept my proposal, and I was informed that orders would be issued allowing the export of barley without any limit of time, the Governments being empowered to withdraw or suspend the permission on giving three months' notice. The orders have not yet been issued, but I was assured that they would be before long.

This Concession will be welcomed by merchants, as I am told it will give a great impetus to the export trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 43*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18 of the 29th ultimo, stating that you have mentioned to the Sultan the good impression created in this country by the measures His Majesty is contemplating for the improvement of the prisons in Morocco, and giving an account of your conversation with Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman on the subject.

I approve of the language used by you on the subject as reported in that despatch, and of your intention to continue to urge the execution of the measures in question until you learn that the prisons are in fair working order.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, recording your conversation with the Sultan of Morocco on the previous evening.

I approve the language used by you on that occasion as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 17, 1902.

FROM reports which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez it would appear that some of the Aits Atta and Doui Menia tribes recently made a raid near the French outposts at Igli, and carried off a considerable quantity of live-stock. It

is believed that Bou Amama has incited the above tribes to these acts of depredation, though that personage asserts that he has no influence, either for good or for evil, with the Berber tribes, and that he limits his efforts to maintaining order among the people round Figuig.

It is also reported that the Sultan's officials remonstrated with the tribes in regard to their conduct, but that they replied that as the Sultan took no steps to prevent French encroachments, they intended to act on their own behalf.

If the above reports be true, the alleged submission of the Doui Menia tribe to French jurisdiction does not seem to have been very complete. The Aits Atta, on the other hand, have always been known for their turbulent and unruly disposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 18, 1902.

FROM information which the Sultan has conveyed to me through a private channel, I gather that the French Minister has had lengthy conversations with His Majesty in regard to the confidence which the Sultan places in the British subjects who are in the employment of the Moorish Government, and also in respect to the number of Englishmen who have been engaged in various capacities.

M. Saint-René Taillandier, so the Sultan informs me, stated that the French Government would never have arranged for a frontier had they been aware that English military instructors were to be engaged to train the Moorish army. He stated that this was a breach of the arrangement arrived at with the Moorish Envoy in Paris, and that all military instructors should be obtained from France.

The Sultan states that he observed that the number of French military instructors was already greater than those of English nationality, there being only Kaïd Maclean and three non-commissioned officers of the latter category. His Majesty added that the English military instructors were engaged before his Mission went to Paris, and that he was unaware that any arrangement had been made in regard to them by his Envoy. On being still further pressed His Majesty said that he inquired of the French Minister if the latter desired to intimate that he was not permitted to deal with affairs concerning his own country according to his own wishes, so long as his acts did not affect international interests.

His Majesty said that the French Minister then changed his tone, and said that he merely wished to suggest that the French military instructors should be more employed and not left in comparative idleness.

At the close of the audience the French Minister requested the Sultan to record in writing all that His Majesty had stated, but the Sultan declined to do this. His Majesty says he told M. Saint-René Taillandier that if he desired replies in writing to any question he should address a written communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and a written answer would be sent.

The Sultan wished me to be informed that this was the second private audience he had accorded to the French Minister, and that though he had given me but a bare outline of what had passed, he could assure me he was very anxious and that he was convinced the French would not be satisfied till they had acquired a firm hold over his country.

The objections of the French Minister to the number of Englishmen employed at the Court should shortly, in great measure, be removed, as the Sultan has already dispensed with the services of several, and has countermanded the departure of others from England. They were all men employed in subordinate positions. His Majesty, I believe, intends to retain the three non-commissioned officers. I am also given to understand that the French Minister has made no proposal to the Sultan in the direction of a loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 47.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 25.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 22, 1902.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a letter, dated the 12th instant, from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Illustrious," reporting his proceedings in conveying his Excellency Sir Arthur Nicolson, Bart., K.C.B., from Tangier to Rabat.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Captain Finnis to Admiral Sir John Fisher.

Sir,

"*Illustrious*," *at Gibraltar, January* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with my sailing orders, I left Malta at 8 A.M. on the 14th instant, and arrived at Gibraltar at 8 A.M. on the 18th instant, left Gibraltar at 7 A.M. on the 19th instant, and arrived at Tangier at 10 A.M.

2. On the 20th instant, at 3 P.M., Sir Arthur Nicolson, Bart., K.C.B., &c., embarked with his staff, and I left for Rabat at 4 P.M., arriving there at 1 P.M. the next day. The weather was very hazy and thick; a difficulty was experienced in locating the anchorage. His Excellency Sir A. Nicolson and staff disembarked at once in fine weather and good bar.

3. On the 23rd instant I landed, together with seven officers, at 7 A.M. to attend the formal audience and reception of his Excellency Sir A. Nicolson by His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, which took place at 9 A.M. with great ceremony.

4. His Excellency then informed me that His Majesty the Sultan regretted exceedingly that he was unable to visit the ship on the following day, as had been arranged, and which had caused him great disappointment, and I give the following reasons, which, in my opinion, caused the alteration:—

(*a.*) The French had informed His Majesty that if he visited the British ship, he would most decidedly have to visit the French ship, and probably those of other nations.

(*b.*) His Majesty was a little nervous about crossing the bar, and thus suffering from sea-sickness on coming off and landing.

(*c.*) I found there was a strong feeling that His Majesty the Sultan should not leave the country, even for such a short time, in accordance with ancient laws and customs of Morocco.

5. In consequence of this change, it was arranged that His Majesty the Sultan should come down to the German battery on the coast at 2 P.M. on the 24th, and having expressed a strong desire to see the ship at target practice, I weighed at 1 P.M. and dropped a target opposite the fort, and exercised at target practice from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M., expending a third of the quarterly allowance of ammunition, and also exploded some mines in front of the fort at his special request.

6. I illuminated the ship on the evening of the 23rd instant from 7 P.M. to 11 P.M., and worked all the searchlights each evening during my stay at Rabat.

7. Having received despatches from Sir A. Nicolson, I left Rabat at 6 P.M. on the 24th instant for Tangier, arriving there at 8 A.M. on the 25th, and arrived at Gibraltar at 2 P.M. the same afternoon.

8. My future movements are as follows:—I leave Gibraltar on the 30th instant for Tetuan Bay for firing and torpedo practices, returning here on the 1st February; leave Gibraltar on the 3rd, calling at Tangier for his Excellency Sir A. Nicolson's mails, and arrive at Rabat on the 4th February.

9. His Excellency and staff, with all baggage, will be embarked (weather permitting) on the 4th and 5th February, arriving at Tangier on the 6th February. I have been requested to remain at Tangier for two days in order to visit the Foreign Minister of Morocco and the Governor, and hope to arrive at Gibraltar on the 8th or 9th February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK FINNIS.

No. 48.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Paris, February 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a telegram from the Havas Agency which appeared in the "Matin" of yesterday's date, reporting that the Sultan of Morocco had approved the line traced for the railway from Duveyrier à Djenan-ed-Dar. The telegram adds that the approval of the French Government is now alone wanting, and that there is no doubt that it will be given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Extract from the "Matin" of February 23, 1902.

Rabat, le 21 *Février.*

LE Sultan a donné son approbation au tracé du chemin de fer de Duveyrier à Djenan-ed-Dar, à partir de la Vallée de l'Oued-el-Haei.

La possession ne pourrait nous en être contestée, mais l'absence de toute délimitation a été une source de difficultés dans le passé.

La ligne sera reportée à 4 kilom. à droite, face au sud, et passera au pied des collines, dont la crête est la ligne de séparation des deux pays.

La voie sera à 1,500 mètres de Figuig.

Il ne manque plus que l'approbation du Gouvernement Français; elle ne fait aucun doute.

Ce succès, dû à l'énergie et à la persévérance de MM. Revoil et Saint-René Taillandier, a été obtenu malgré les intrigues de Kaid Maclean, toujours en faveur à la Cour.

La question des railways est à l'étude.

No. 49.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 26, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 26 and 27 of the 10th instant, recording your conversations with the Sultan and the Moorish Ministers relative to the financial situation in Morocco.

I approve the language used by you as reported in those despatches, and I request that you will continue to do everything in your power to dissuade His Majesty and his advisers from contracting a loan.

Should, however, the Moorish Government persist in the idea that recourse must be had to a loan, I trust that you will be kept fully informed of any steps which they contemplate taking in the matter, in order that His Majesty's Government may be afforded an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject before a final decision is arrived at.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 50.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 23 of the 31st ultimo, stating that you have been informed by the Sultan that in those districts of Morocco in which the new system of taxation has been put into force, it has been most successful, and that the people are much gratified with its introduction.

I have heard with satisfaction of the success which has so far attended His Majesty's efforts in this direction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 51.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 22 of the 31st ultimo, recording your conversation with the Sultan relative to His Majesty's wish to undertake a railway scheme in Morocco, and to obtain a loan for the supply of the necessary funds.

I approve the language held by you to the Sultan as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 22, 1902.

THE Spanish Minister informed me that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had instructed him to endeavour to ascertain whether there was any truth in a report which had reached him that England and France had come to an arrangement in regard to Morocco. M. de Ojeda added that the Duke of Almodovar had not informed him from what quarter the report had emanated, but that his Excellency had referred to the question on more than one occasion, and evidently attached some importance to it.

I told M. de Ojeda that I was unaware of any special arrangement or understanding. My Government, I said, were desirous that the *status quo* in Morocco should be maintained, and I understood from recent declarations of the French Minister of State that the French Government were animated with the same desire. My knowledge went no further than the above.

M. de Ojeda said he was puzzled as to the source whence his Minister for Foreign Affairs had derived his information; and I stated that it was evident I was unable to assist him in elucidating that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 53.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 21, 1902.

THERE have been recently in Tangier some strikes among certain trades in which Spaniards are almost exclusively employed, and, though there have been the usual processions and demonstrations, the public peace was not disturbed.

A few weeks ago, however, a French citizen introduced some steam machinery for the manufacture of cigarettes—an industry which is increasing owing to the low duty on

tobacco. The substitution of steam for machinery worked by hand provoked much excitement among the workmen; and threats were employed against the Frenchman. The latter fled to the French Legation for protection, and a noisy crowd held a tumultuous meeting in front of the Legation, at which, it is said, much violent language was used.

Efforts were made by the French and Spanish Ministers to arrange a *modus vivendi*, but apparently without success; and it is reported that the Spanish workmen have subsequently held meetings, at which they are alleged to have decided to employ violence if the French citizen ventures to open his establishment.

The Sultan's deputy made an official complaint to the Diplomatic Body in regard to these assemblages, and requested that measures should be taken for the suppression of disorderly meetings, which were a danger to public order and security.

A meeting of the Diplomatic Body was held; and the Spanish Minister stated that he would be able to act with vigour against his nationals, if the Moorish authorities proclaimed that meetings likely to produce a breach of the public peace were forbidden, and if his compatriots were made aware that the Moorish police would be authorized to disperse them.

M. de Ojeda had an interview with the Sultan's Deputy, and a communication has been received from the latter of which I beg leave to inclose a translation.

I propose to bring it to the knowledge of British subjects. I believe one or two British subjects are active in participating in these movements: and it would be well that they should be apprised of the intentions of the Moorish authorities.

There is now a partially drilled Moorish military force at Tangier of some 400 to 500 men, who are sufficient to maintain order. The Spanish colony has some very unsatisfactory elements among it; but hitherto they have given little trouble, so far as public security is concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Cid Mohammed Torres to Señor de Ojeda.

(Après les compliments d'usage.)

EN addition à ce que nous vous avions communiqué en date du 2 courant à propos de la protestation que nous adressâmes à l'occasion des faits produits par quelques étrangers au sujet des troubles, injures contre les religions et autres hardiesses, nous établissons le présent Règlement, composé de trois Articles, pour qu'il soit strictement observé:—

1. Tout attroupement ou toute réunion propres à troubler l'ordre public et à entraver la circulation sur la voie publique sont interdits.

2. Toute atteinte blâmable portée aux religions, aux nations, et aux personnes sera puni en rapport avec sa gravité.

3. Le Gouverneur de la ville prendra les mesures nécessaires pour que l'ordre public soit conservé. Toute contravention sera réprimée par la force armée Marocaine. S'il s'agissait d'un Européen qui refuserait de se soumettre aux dispositions antérieures pour la conservation du bon ordre sur la voie publique, il sera arrêté et amené devant son autorité Consulaire pour qu'il soit puni ou expulsé du pays, s'il y avait lieu, suivant l'importance du délit.

S'il convenait d'ajouter à l'avenir à ces trois Articles quelques clauses additionnelles un autre accord sera établi en harmonie avec les convenances.

Nous vous prions de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance des Représentants des Puissances amies ce qui précède et de nous répondre.

(Signé) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Tanger, le 10 *Kaada*, 1319 (10 *Février*, 1902).

No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 26, 1902.

THE Spanish Minister informs me that he has received a report from the Spanish Colonel, who is with the expedition in search of the Spanish captives, stating that the heavy weather has practically suspended any operations. The Commander of the expedition has been negotiating with the neighbouring hill tribes to attack the M'Zara, in whose hands the captives were last supposed to be, and a village or two belonging to the M'Zara had been burnt.

The M'Zara had retired to their mountain fastnesses, and the troops did not appear disposed to follow them there.

I observed to M. de Ojeda that I had been under the impression that the captives had come into the hands of the M'Zara by what these wild mountaineers considered the ordinary course of trade, and that the really guilty people were the Beni Arôz, who had originally abducted them.

M. de Ojeda replied that such was the fact, but that the Beni Arôz had submitted to the Sultan, and that the two or three individuals among them who had been the authors of the abduction would be punished.

As to the M'Zara, there was reason to believe that the girl was still among them, and as they showed themselves recalcitrant, punitive measures were necessary. He added that there was no news as to the boy, and it was generally believed that he had died.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 26, 1902.

THE German Minister returned here yesterday from his visit to the Court.

I saw Baron de Mentzingen this morning, and I inquired what impressions he had brought back with him. He replied that his stay at Rabat had only been of six days' duration, and that he had hardly had time to form any opinion. He considered the Sultan to be a man of active intelligence and of enlightened ideas, and that El Menebhi was His Majesty's intimate friend, but, as far as he could gather, without much politicai influence.

Baron de Mentzingen added that he understood that the French Minister had had some animated audiences of the Sultan, but the former did not seem particularly satisfied with the results. He had learnt no details as to what had passed.

Baron de Mentzingen said that the French Minister had caused an unfavourable impression at the Court, by requesting the withdrawal of all the Moorish guards round his house and replacing them by Algerian spahis whom he had brought with him.

He added that he had learnt that the question of a loan had been discussed with me, and that I had advised against it. The matter was not mentioned to him, and, as regards internal affairs, the Sultan had merely spoken in general terms of his desire to reform his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 56.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 37. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 26, 1902.

THE Sultan has sent me a message, which he begged me to consider as strictly confidential, as he had been bound to secrecy.

His Majesty wished to tell me that the German Minister had informed him that communications had recently been passing between the German and Russian Governments in respect to Morocco, and that Baron de Mentzingen had read to him a document, in which it was stated that the Russian Government had given formal assurances of their desire that the *status quo* in Morocco should be maintained, and that they would oppose any attempt to disturb the peace of Morocco.

I report the message in the terms in which it was sent to me, and it is possible that it is not a very accurate and literal rendering of the communication made by Baron de Mentzingen. The latter, in my interview with him this morning, made no allusion to the matter, and I did not feel at liberty to touch upon it.

It would be interesting to know further details, and I will endeavour to obtain from the Sultan a fuller and more detailed account of what passed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 57.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 1, 1902.

THE Moorish cruiser, the "El Bashir," built in Italy at a cost of 80,000*l.*, has just been sold to a French firm for 20,000*l.* The Italian Minister told me that it is rumoured that the real purchaser is some Central American State.

The construction of the "El Bashir" was completed some years ago, but was only taken over by the Moorish Government in 1899.

She was practically never employed, and her upkeep cost the Government about 8,000*l.* a-year. The Sultan, in the circumstances, seems to have acted wisely in disposing of her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 2, 1902.

I AM in communication with the Sultan as to the appointment of an English Military Bandmaster, and I have repeated privately to His Majesty certain considerations which seemed to me to weigh against such an appointment, and which I had already laid before him during my recent visit to Rabat.

When I left the Shereefian Court I understood that the services of several British employés already at the Court would be dispensed with, and that those who were under engagement in England would be requested not to come.

Subsequent to my return here I heard that the Sultan wished that the Bandmaster should take up his appointment, It is possible that His Majesty may now abandon this desire, and I expect to receive his final decision in very few days.

It is in regard to military appointments that the French Minister, acting, I believe, under instructions, has raised serious objections. It would, then, I submit, be impru-

dent on the part of the Sultan to nominate at this moment, and immediately after the observations of M. Saint-René Taillandier, another British military man, even though he should appear in the character of a Musical Director.

I found, when at Rabat, that it was contemplated to engage the services of some twenty-five Englishmen at the Court. I suggested that this number should be reduced by half, and that the Sultan should be content with the services of Sir Harry Maclean, Dr. Verdon and his brother, the three non-commissioned officers, and five or six Englishmen in various subordinate civil capacities. If His Majesty desired band instructors, masons, carpenters, &c., I suggested that he should obtain them from Germany, Austria, and other countries.

The electrician alluded to in your Lordship's telegram No. 3 is required for the installation at Fez of some electric light plant which is already landed in Morocco, and there is no objection to his proceeding to undertake his work. But I respectfully submit that it is desirable to keep the number of British employés within the limits I have suggested. The appointment of minor employés exclusively of British nationality is of no real advantage to British interests, and it undoubtedly causes a certain misconception, I may even say jealousy, among the foreign Legations here. I think it would be wise for the Sultan to distribute these subordinate posts a little more impartially and among various nationalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 10, Confidential, of the 10th instant, and I agree to your proposal not to intervene in the matter of the loan to the Moorish Government, for which you hear that an English local banker is negotiating.

No. 60.

Lord Currie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, March* 12, 1902.

TRIPOLI Declaration.

Following, with reference to my immediately preceding telegram of yesterday.

I to-day handed M. Prinetti a note respecting Tripoli, dated the 11th instant.

The French Declaration, which his Excellency showed me confidentially, is dated the 14th December, 1900, and I made a copy of it.

The assurances, of which we have already been informed, are all that it contains.

M. Prinetti inquired if His Majesty's Government could possibly suspect that Italy might have entered into any engagement with France in regard to Egypt.

If such were the case, he gave me the most solemn assurance that there existed no such engagement.

The only assurance that Italy had given in regard to Morocco was one of "désintéressement," and this was given to the French Government with special reference to a gun manufactory under Italian management, which exists at Fez.

His Excellency said that he would send a formal acknowledgment of my note to the Italian Ambassador in London, for communication to your Lordship, and expressed his cordial thanks for the goodwill shown by His Majesty's Government.

No. 58*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 10, 1902.

I HAVE been informed, privately, by an English local banker that he is negotiating for a loan to the Moorish Government of 100,000*l.* at 6 per cent. interest, to be repaid in five or six years; the money is to be provided from here and by some of his friends at Gibraltar, and he asks no guarantees. I would propose, unless your Lordship wishes otherwise, not to intervene in the matter, as it is merely local assistance of a modest kind for the purpose of tiding over some pressing needs.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 40.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the French Minister returned here yesterday in the "Charlemagne," from the Court.

I saw M. Saint-René Taillandier this morning, and asked him what impressions he had carried away with him from Rabat. He told me that he thought that the Sultan was an exceedingly attractive personage, and evidently bright and intelligent, though he had remarked that he could be on occasions stiff and reserved.

His Majesty, he considered, was observant and anxious to acquire information, though frequently his curiosity was exercised on the most trivial details. He had noticed that the Moorish Ministers took no step without first consulting the Sultan; but he doubted whether His Majesty had as yet obtained complete control of the administrative machine.

The French Minister was of opinion that Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman was the Minister whose opinion on public affairs carried the greatest weight with the Sultan, while El Menebhi was unquestionably the most intimate friend of his master, though without much influence in political questions. The Grand Vizier, Gharnit, was without any power.

I asked M. Saint-René Taillandier whether the Sultan had spoken to him with regard to reforms. He replied in the affirmative, and added that His Majesty had made an earnest appeal to him for his co-operation and assistance. He had told the Sultan that naturally he was sincerely desirous that order and security should be established in His Majesty's dominions, but that much would depend on the mode in which the reforms were carried into execution, and the shape they might eventually assume.

On this point the French Minister was vague and reserved, and I did not gather that he was a very warm partisan of the projects which the Sultan had in view.

M. Saint-René Taillandier thought that the Sultan was in error in adopting so many European ways and customs, and that he was causing a painful impression among those who held to the old traditions of the country. He trusted that His Majesty would be more careful, and less disposed to innovations in the habits of the Court when he reached Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 33, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, stating that the Spanish Minister had asked you whether there was any truth in a report which had reached the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that England and France had come to an arrangement in regard to Morocco.

I approve the reply given by you to M. de Ojeda, as reported in that despatch.

Should he recur to the subject you may use the same language, and add that you have been authorized to confirm your previous statement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 34 of the 21st ultimo, inclosing a copy of a communication addressed by the Sultan's deputy to the Spanish Minister, relative to the Regulations which the Moorish Government have adopted for the preservation of public order.

I approve your intention of bringing the Regulations to the knowledge of British subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 32.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 39 of the 2nd instant relative to the appointment of Englishmen to posts of minor importance at the Court of the Sultan of Morocco.

I approve the advice given by you to His Majesty on the subject, as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 42.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 5, 1902.

I AM informed that the Moorish Government intend to dispatch 6,000 men to reinforce the troops already at Tafilet, and the command is to be intrusted to the Kaid of Glaonia, an active Chief from the Atlas Mountains.

Some Moorish officers and non-commissioned officers, who have been trained at Morocco city, are also to proceed to Oujda and Figuig to raise and drill two regiments of 500 men each.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports, under all reserve, that it is rumoured that Bou Amama is endeavouring to collect some tribes for the purpose of attacking the French forces on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan left Rabat on the 3rd instant for Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 67.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 10, 1902.

MR. ABENSUR, a naturalized British subject and a local banker, informed me privately to-day that he was in negotiation with the Deputy of the Sultan in regard to a loan of 100,000*l.* to the Moorish Government. He explained to me that, owing to the peculations of former Customs administrators, and the heavy payments which had recently been made on account of purchases from abroad, the chests of the principal custom-houses were practically empty, and money was required to meet some pressing and long-standing claims, and to tide over the time till the Treasuries would be replenished by the summer export trade.

The present administrators, who had not purchased their posts, were relatively honest and capable men, and as trade was increasing, the Customs revenues should show a very considerable increase this year. It would, however, take some time before the Customs recovered themselves, as the peculations had been on a very large scale, and many bills drawn upon them still remained unpaid. The Court, further, had apparently not slackened in its orders from abroad, and all these were paid by bills on the Customs.

I asked Mr. Abensur what were the terms on which he proposed to lend the sum to the Government, and whether he required any guarantees. He stated that he was asking for no guarantees, as he and his friends at Gibraltar would be content with a letter from the Moorish Government promising to repay the capital in five or six years, and to pay an interest of 6 per cent. per annum.

As this question is merely a small local transaction, I would propose not to intervene in the matter unless your Lordship otherwise directs me.

It would be well if the Court were to restrict the extent of its purchases in Europe, and if the Moorish Government were to speedily terminate the expedition against the mountain tribes, which is also a heavy drain on the Customs revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 68.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 12, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No 1 of the 3rd January, I have the honour to report that the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires informed me to-day that he had received instructions from his Government as to the demands to be made of the Moorish Government on account of the assassination of a Portuguese naturalized subject in the neighbourhood of Daralbaida.

M. de Quillinane said that he was to address a moderately-worded note requesting that the two men under arrest, and who were accomplices in the murder, should be tried and punished according to Moorish law, and the sentence communicated officially to his Legation. In regard to the actual assassin who had fled, but whose hiding-place was well known, he was to give the Moorish Government a delay of two months in which to apprehend him, but if at the expiration of that period the man was still at large, the Deputy Governor of the district in which he had taken refuge should be severely punished. Further, he was instructed to demand an indemnity of 5,000 dollars (about 800*l.*).

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 19, 1902.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has recently reported to me some rumours, which he was unable to verify, that Bou Amama was endeavouring to raise the tribes near the frontier to attack the French forces. The Sultan has now caused me to be informed that this intelligence is correct, and that he has sent orders to Bou Amama to present himself without delay at the Court. His Majesty added that Bou Amama had promised to obey the summons, and it will be of interest to see whether in reality he will do so.

The French Minister spoke to me the other day as to the difficulties which were being caused by the uncertain and disquieting attitude of Bou Amama, whom he described as a man who had some disposition to play the part of Abd-el-Kader, but with little of the influence and energy possessed by that personage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 15, 1902.*

I AM informed that the Sultan has fixed the salaries which his Ministers and Court officials are in future to receive. The Grand Vizier, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for War, and Minister for Finance, are each to receive about 4*l.* a-day.

The High Chamberlain and two other chief officials at the Court will be paid 2*l.* 10*s.* a-day each, and the minor functionaries will receive lesser rates of salary. I have asked to be furnished with the rates of pay of the provincial Governors and Customs administrators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 15, 1902.*

WITH reference to the telegram No. 26 of the 12th instant from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, I would mention that when at Rabat I was informed that the Sultan desired to close the arsenal at Fez and dismiss the Italian officers who were in charge of it.

I was told that His Majesty found the arsenal to be a heavy and useless expense, and the arms and munitions it produced to be of bad workmanship and of little value. In fact, the latest weapons which the arsenal turned out were so worthless that they could not be served out to the troops, and arms had to be procured from Europe. I was asked whether there would be any objection to the Italian officers being sent back to Europe and the arsenal closed.

I said that I was unaware under what conditions the officers had been originally engaged, and that I thought it would be better if the Sultan were to communicate with the Italian Minister on the subject.

I have not heard whether any further steps have been taken in the matter, but it is probable that the Sultan, on his arrival at Fez, will look into the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 49.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 15, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 26th ultimo, the Spanish Minister informed me to-day that he had received a letter, dated the 11th instant, from the Spanish Colonel who was with the Moorish expedition, reporting that the Beni M'zara tribe had made their submission, and had agreed to the terms imposed by the Moorish Commander. These terms were that they should pay a fine of 100,000 dollars (about 16,000*l.*), all arrears of taxes, and furnish 600 hostages till these conditions had been fulfilled. The Moorish Commander had transmitted these terms to the Sultan for his approval, and was awaiting His Majesty's decision.

The Beni M'zara denied all knowledge of the Spanish captives, and the efforts of the Moorish Commander to ascertain some news of them had, hitherto, been unsuccessful.

I again asked M. de Ojeda whether the men who had originally abducted the captives, and who did not belong to the M'zara tribe, had been arrested. He replied in the negative, and added that he was perplexed as to what course to take, as he was anxious to obtain some positive information as to whether the captives were dead or alive, and in the latter case he would like to ascertain where they were.

The terms imposed on the Beni M'zara seem very severe, especially as they were not, apparently, the really guilty parties. The Moorish Commander succeeded in completely surrounding them, and in securing for this object the co-operation of the other mountain tribes. Even supposing the fine and arrears of taxes are paid, the expedition will have cost the Moorish Treasury a large sum of money, and its object, namely, the release of captives will, apparently not be attained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 15, 1902.*

THE French Minister informed me to-day that it had been arranged that a French Commissioner should reside at Figuig, and a Moorish Commissioner at Djenan-ed-Dar, in Algeria; and similar Commissioners would be appointed to Oujda and Lala Marina, respectively.

These officers were appointed in order to arrange on the spot all minor frontier questions, and the French Legation here would, therefore, be freed from what had always proved a most ungrateful and unpleasant duty, namely, that of pressing on the Moorish Government claims for tribal razzias and other similar disputes. Such questions, the French Minister added, had always produced a certain amount of friction with the Moorish Government, and occasionally there was some injustice in making that Government responsible for the acts of tribes over which they had practically no control.

In future, in conjunction with the police measures on the frontier, which would shortly be arranged, the presence of the Commissioners would probably soon establish some order and tranquillity in the frontier districts.

I asked M. Saint-René Taillandier whether he had any news of the Moorish Frontier Commission, and he told me that he believed they were now at Bechar. This place is a little to the east of Kenadsa; and my French colleague added that the mountain range of Bechar (Djebel Bechar) would form a line to the west of which the French authorities did not wish to interfere.

The Djebel Bechar, he said, commanded the valley of the Zousfana, and it was therefore of importance to the French as securing the safety of the railway line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the arrival of the Sultan at Fez, and impressions derived by Mr. Macleod from a private audience which His Majesty was pleased to grant him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Fez, March* 15, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that His Shereefian Majesty entered Fez this morning, and was received enthusiastically by a vast concourse of the inhabitants of the city and the neighbouring tribes.

The weather was perfect, and the entry was in every respect a complete success.

Last evening Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean, on my mentioning the subject to him, as being Senior Vice-Consul here, kindly informed His Majesty that the Fez Vice-Consuls were desirous of offering His Majesty their most humble respects whenever agreeable.

In reply, His Majesty was pleased to invite me to the Shereefian camp, and to receive me privately the same evening.

Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean introduced me, and a little later His Majesty asked also for my assistant, Mr. Archibald Hastings, to be presented to him.

The Minister for War, Si Mehdi Menebhi, and Mr. A. P. Verdon, were also with His Majesty.

As your Excellency has seen the Sultan so lately, I need not describe His Majesty, nor does time to-day allow of a detailed account of the meeting above referred to. But I cannot refrain from expressing the profound astonishment with which His Majesty impressed me. Though I have now lived in Morocco almost sixteen years, I have never met a Moor in the least way like him. His quickness of perception, the intelligence and aptness of his questions, and his grasp of the principles of the topics he spoke of—mostly modern inventions—and his memory, all surprised me in the highest degree; but what seemed to me most remarkable still, was the total disparity of his tone and manner from that of practically all Moors of the governing classes whom I have met—His Majesty having none at all of the suspicion, disdain, and prejudice so usual in the bearing of Government Moors towards Europeans, and especially when European things are being discussed.

These cannot fail to win him the good wishes of all with whom he comes into contact, directly or indirectly, while the honesty and justice he has begun steadily infusing into his administration cannot fail, if his life be spared, to have the most far-reaching effect on the future of his country and the happiness and prosperity of his subjects.

At the close of the interview His Majesty was pleased to say that he would shortly receive the Vice-Consuls formally at the Palace here in the same manner as he did at Dar-el-Baida.

I have, of course, informed the Acting German and French Vice-Consuls of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 75.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Fez reporting the dismissal of the Mohtasseb (Treasurer) of Fez, and the satisfaction caused among the population by this act of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Fez, March* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 11th instant the Mohtasseb of Fez, Sid Mohammed Shemi, was summoned to the Basha's Tribunal. There the Acting Governor read to him in public a Shereefian letter severely censuring his rapacious conduct during the many years he had occupied his post, and dismissing him.

On leaving the Tribunal the ex-Mohtasseb was followed to his house by hooting crowds, who pelted him with mud, and were only prevented by a *posse* of soldiers from injuring him and looting his house.

As it was, however, bands of youths continued parading the streets until nightfall singing execrations of the dismissed functionary.

The disgracing of the Mohtasseb, and the appointment of a well-known merchant, Sid Dris Benzacor, at a sufficient but not high salary—3 dollars a-day—have been received with acclaim by all classes.

The Sultan has in this, and in many other ways, already made himself most popular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 76.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting some ill-treatment of Jews in Fez by certain of the Shereefian soldiery, and the steps which were taken by the Minister of War to prevent such occurrences in the future.

I venture to report the above to your Lordship as occasionally exaggerated reports of such incidents appear in the public press.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Fez, March* 17, 1902.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that to-day a British-protected Jew, named Benshiton, complained to me that several of his Jewish employés had been roughly used by soldiers of the Shereefian infantry, who objected to their walking in the Moslem part of the city in their shoes.

It was, I believe, one of the original conditions upon which the Jews were allowed to settle in Morocco, that they should go barefoot in the Moslem quarter of the town they inhabited.

Of late years, however, even in Fez, this custom has been steadily disappearing—first protégés, then their employés, and then ordinary Jews, walking freely in their shoes in the Medina.

I therefore sent a message to the Basha, begging him to prevent such ill-usage recurring, and asking that the Jews be left unmolested, as they were when the Sultan was here formerly.

The Basha replied that he, having already heard of the matter, had represented the case to the Minister of War, who had sent a Kaïd Er-rha and soldiers through the town to arrest any one interfering with the Jews, and warning soldiers that any interference by them with the Jews would be severely punished.

This, I understand, has really been done, so I am hopeful the Jews will have no fresh cause for complaint.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 77.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting certain events on the Algerian frontier.

In a subsequent despatch Mr. Macleod states that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed him that it was true that Bu Amama had moved to Defilia, and he hoped that this personage would shortly present himself at the Shereefian Court.

His Excellency added that the Moorish Government considered that Bu Amama was the cause of the continued restlessness of the tribes on the frontier, and that they were resolved to remove him from the border districts. When this was accomplished, the Government would station sufficient troops among the tribes for the preservation of order, and he had every hope that they would be able to arrange a satisfactory frontier with the French authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Fez, March* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to a native rumour which has just reached here, and which I have been unable as yet to sift, Bu Amama, with all his belongings, moved from Figuig to Defilia about the 8th (20th) February.

The rumour has it that the French seized some animals of his which were pasturing in French territory, and Bu Amama, by force, repossessed himself of them at once, whereupon the Cadi Ben Mohammed and the Shereef Mulai Mustapha (the Sultan's Agents among those tribes) advised Bu Amama to betake himself, without delay, out of reach of the French authorities.

The same rumour states also that some fighting has been going on between the Zenaga and Udaghir tribes on account of the latter's friendly dealings with the French, and that the Cadi Ben Mohammed and Mulai Mustapha had gone to Wad Dermel.

I heard recently that Sid Mohammed Gubbaz, the Sultan's Commissioner for the delimitation of the frontier, had also gone to Wad Dermel, so possibly the above two functionaries have gone to meet him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 7.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 27. 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit some extracts from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting some further items of news from the Algerian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

Fez, March 19, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 6 and 8 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that, since then, two native reports on frontier affairs have reached me, one originating from Ain Shair about the 1st March, and the other from Kenedsah about the 3rd (5th) March.

They confirm the news of Bu Amama having moved some distance westwards from Figuig, and of the Frontier Commission having proceeded from Figuig to Zubia, Juan Dar, Wad Dermal, and Igli.

The Commission consists, they say, of four French officials: Sid Mohammed Gubbaz (the Sultan's Representative), the Cadi Ben Mohammed, and the Shereef Mulai Mustapha.

The two latter, who are the Sultan's Agents amongst the frontier tribes, joined the Commission at Wad Dermal, and were proceeding with it to Igli and Kerzaz.

Some 700 Moorish infantry were with the Commission, and a Proclamation had been issued in Figuig district, stating that the Sultan would punish with death any person who disturbed the peace with the French or otherwise while the present negotiations were in progress.

According to the Kenedsah report, the French were shortly going to construct buildings there, and at Kerzaz, where the same family of Shereefs have a zania.

The Ain Shair report states that Bu Amama's present following is very small, not more than 100 "khaimas" or so, say, 500 men, but that his kinsman, Sidi Allal, of Beni Matar, has a following of about 500 "khaimas," or, say, 2,500 men.

Bu Amama has given out that he means to remain perfectly neutral, and to live as a private person merely, unless invited by the Sultan to assist him.

There appear to have been no fresh raids upon French convoys.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACLEOD.

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 9, 1902.

I AM informed by Russian Minister that to-morrow a squadron of eight or nine French and Russian ships is to arrive here for a short stay of twenty-four hours. No reason was given for this demonstration.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 10, 1902.

MY telegram of yesterday.
This morning five Russian men-of-war and three French arrived here.

No. 81.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord,

Paris, April 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report by Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, relating to the formation of three companies in the Saharean Oases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 12.)
Sir,

Paris, April 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, the following report on the formation of three companies of the three arms for service in the Saharean Oases:—

On the proposition of the Minister of War, with a view of reducing to a minimum the expenses of the occupation of the groups of oases of Gourara, Touat, and Tidikelt, a Decree has just been published sanctioning the creation of three native companies charged with the occupation and defence of these groups of oases.

The object of this creation is to replace the existing Saharean troops (who will be disbanded in six months) by natives recruited in the Sahara, who will be able to maintain and feed themselves from local resources; by which means the necessity of dispatching large convoys of provisions will be obviated, and great expense saved.

The three companies, composed of infantry, cavalry, and mountain-guns, will be substituted for all the European troops occupying this region, and will contain strictly indispensable "cadres" only.

The natives will be incorporated by means of engagements and re-engagements of two years. They will continue to live in their habitual manner, grouped with their families round principal centres, and will be able, while fulfilling their military service, to continue their agricultural pursuits.

The French "cadres" will receive pay and allowances, exclusive of all issues in kind. The officers will be charged with the command of the troops and the administration of the country.

It will thus be possible in normal times to suppress the distribution of rations, forage, clothing, and equipment.

Each company will be furnished with a number of camels, which will be used for the transport of provisions from one place to another.

The three companies will be utilized and distributed under the orders of the General Commanding the 19th Corps d'Armée, and the supreme authority of the Governor-General of Algeria.

They will not be employed outside the region of the Saharean Oases, except in very special cases, and only by order of the Governor-General, acting under instructions of the Government.

Each company will be commanded by a Captain from the Service of Native Affairs, charged with the administration of the corresponding group of oases; the Lieutenants will be similarly selected. The men (French) will be recruited from Algerian corps of all arms.

The companies will be placed under the orders of the Senior Commandant of the Saharean Oases, with the rank of "Chef du Bataillon."

For the French, each year passed in the Saharean region will count as double; but the conditions of retirement are not changed. For the natives, the conditions are the same as for the Algerian Tirailleurs: each year counting as one.

The formation of a company will be as follows:—

1 Captain.	4 gunners (French).
4 Lieutenants.	9 artisans and clerks (French).
1 Surgeon-Major.	8 buglers and trumpeters (native).
12 N.C.Os. (French).	232 infantry (native).
6 „ (native).	26 cavalry (native).
20 Meharistes (natives).	100 transport camels.
43 horses.	6 mules.
52 Mehara.	2 mountain guns.

In all, the three companies, with the staff, will number:—

20 officers, with 37 horses.	156 Mehara.
110 French N.C.Os. and men.	300 camels.
900 native ditto.	18 mules.
96 troop horses.	6 mountain guns of 80 m.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART WORTLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 14.)

N o2. Commercial.)
My Lord,

Tangier, April 7, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 15th February, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from the Sultan's deputy authorizing the export of wheat and barley for an unlimited period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.)

HIS Shereefian Majesty has decided to continue to allow the shipment of barley and wheat at all the ports, without any time restriction, until such time as it may be necessary to prohibit the export, when Shereefian orders will be issued to that effect and notice thereof will be given to you ninety days before the prohibition comes into force in order that the merchants may dispose of what stocks they may hold. I inform you of this, that you may notify your merchants, &c.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) M. BELARBI TORRES.

No. 83.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 15, 1902.

A REPORT reaches me from Fez as to restlessness among the tribes around Tafilelt, who, I am informed, are agitating to attack the French, and are, with difficulty, being kept in hand. The Minister of War confirms this report generally; he gave no details, but caused me to be informed that very serious news had reached him from Tafilelt.

No. 84.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 16, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 14 of yesterday's date relative to the unrest among the Tafilet tribes, the necessity of restraining tribes from acts of aggression against the French cannot be impressed too strongly on the Moorish Government.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting certain items of news from the Algerian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Fez, March* 31, 1902.

THE following is the substance of the latest native news I have from Figuig.

As yet, however, I have not had confirmation of any of the particulars, so I send them with all reserve.

Their date is about the 7th instant.

Bu Amama has moved from Defilia to Tamlitts and Mengub—the Mengub close to Ain Shair—by order of the Moorish authorities.

The Frontier Commission has not yet returned from Igli.

The Moorish authorities have told the Figuig people that they are about to build Kasbahs and barracks at Sidi Aissa, just off Juan Dar, and at Wad Dermel, and the Sultan will appoint a Viceroy or Governor-General over that whole region.

This is said to have had an excellent effect in checking the people's tendency to think themselves neglected, and to put themselves under French protection.

Of the 700 Moorish soldiers who were at Wad Dermel, some 300 have gone as escort to the Frontier Commission and the rest to Dar-al-Baida, Figuig.

The Amin Eragragi, of Figuig, has been appointed Kaid in succession to Simo Chiradi, deceased.

The murderers of the French officers killed some time ago near Figuig, are said to be four (or five) brothers called Ulad Mohammed Ben Ali, and belonging to a village called El Halluf-en-Beni Siner.

The murderers have not been arrested, the Moorish authorities asserting that the deceased officers were outside the frontier where they had no right to be, and they were therefore spies and trespassers, and breakers of the understanding between the Moorish and French authorities, that persons within their respective jurisdictions should not travel in each other's lands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MacLEOD.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian men-of-war, "Lissoy Nelisky," "Navarin," "Nicolas I," "Dnitry Donskoi," "Amiral Korniloff," commanded by Admiral Tchouchnine, accompanied by the French cruisers "Pothuau," "Latouche-Tréville," and "Chanzy," under Admiral Bautet arrived this morning in Tangier Bay from Algiers.

The French Minister informed me that the Russian squadron would leave for Cadiz to-morrow morning, and I understand that the French vessels will at the same time return to Algeria.

M. Saint-Réné Taillandier stated that the ships had come on a short friendly visit, and intimated that no political significance should be attributed to the presence of the combined fleet.

The "Réveil du Maroc," which derives its inspiration from the French Legation, states that the visit is to be regarded as a proof of the desire of the two friendly and allied Governments to notify their community of views in all questions which have a political interest for the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 19.)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod regarding frontier affairs.

I would venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the observations of the Minister for Foreign Affairs which are, I think, of interest.

The Sultan has given orders for the dispatch of three Gardner guns with 30,000 rounds of ball ammunition to Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 14. Confidential.)
Sir, *Fez, April* 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to send you the following summary of frontier news from native sources, which reached me this afternoon.

The events referred to happened about the 23rd–27th March.

A body of French from Igli are said to have encamped at Wad Gir, about 40 miles north-west of Igli and on the road to Tafilelt having come there in pursuit of some Douimenia people whom they accuse of plundering one of their convoys.

The Douimenia meanwhile, according to the report, have appealed to the various Berber tribes near them, to the Tafilelt people, and to Bu Amama to assist them.

The Berbers and Tafilelt people have therefore informed Muley Ersbid, the Sultan's Agent there, that with or without the Sultan's assent they mean to fight with the French.

Bu Amama went to Ain Shair with a following of about 800 men, but the inhabitants refused to allow him to remain with them unless he showed them a Shereefian order in that sense.

This he could not do, so he retired to Bu Danib, a locality, as far as I can make out, synonymous with the "Um Dribina," between Kenedsah and Tafilelt, shown in our War Office map No. 746, where he was last heard of.

I called on Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Sultan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, this afternoon and mentioned the foregoing reports.

He said that the Moorish Government had, not yet at any rate, heard of any actual fighting between the Douimenia and the French, nor of the advance of a French force to Wad Gir.

But it was not strange that these reports should be current, for the position of affairs was substantially as follows:—

The Moorish Government had come to an understanding in this wise, with the Chiefs of the frontier tribes between Figuig and Igli, in regard to the delimitation of the frontier and its bearing on their feelings and interests.

1. The Sultan and the French Government would arrange a boundary line.

2. Nomadic tribesmen, hitherto Moorish, whose lands might pass under French jurisdiction but who did not wish to live under French rule, would be given other and better lands by the Sultan, elsewhere in his dominions.

3. The kessours, or built stationary villages would remain Moorish as before.

The present lands of the nomadic tribesmen would, nevertheless, remain their property, and would be managed by agents, whom they should choose for their benefit.

This arrangement, the Minister said, was not publicly known, and he communicated it to me privately for your Excellency's information.

The Chiefs of the tribes and well-to-do tribesmen are entirely content with this arrangement.

The landless men, however, and those not possessing flocks, are naturally averse to it, as, whether they are transported to some other part of Morocco, or come under French rule where they are, they will not be able to live by robbery and raiding as heretofore.

It is they, consequently, the Minister continued, who are making the present hubbub, but, the Vizier considered, there was no serious danger to be apprehended from their big talk, so content were the most influential and serious men of the tribe with the arrangement.

Bu Amama, the Vizier went on, has been fomenting discontent with the plan for his own purposes, but the Moorish Government had been able to stop him settling down at Ain Shair and the report I had heard of his rebuff there, and of his present whereabouts was correct.

The Vizier, however, was somewhat vague when speaking of future action regarding Bu Amama.

As far as I can judge I think the Moorish Government does not feel strong enough just now to seize him, and so intend merely to keep him moving about in the meantime.

When the arrangement above described has been carried out, or at any rate come to be fully understood by the tribes, and more troops have reached the frontier, his arrest will then be comparatively easy, if indeed it be then necessary.

The Vizier, in reply to a question of mine, as to the present whereabouts of the Frontier Commissioners, said they, Sid Mahommed Gubbaz and his party had left Figuig, and should by now have reached Algiers.

He was most cordial throughout and enjoined me to send your Excellency his warmest greetings.

Just as I close this a native report has reached me from Ain Shair which confirms the news about the Bu Amama and states that a French force operating against part of the Douimenia has encamped at Wad Gir, and that all the tribes between Figuig and Tafilelt talk of joining with Bu Amama to attack the French.

This report states also that the Zenaga people (Figuig) have revolted against the Moorish authorities.

The latter recently seized the tribe's irrigation water supply and demanded a tax upon it to provide the wherewithal to pay troops and to meet claims by the French for various actions of members of that tribe.

The Zenaga, according to the report, have told the Moorish authorities that if this tax be not withdrawn, they will place themselves under French rule.

On this head the report is fairly circumstantial, and it confirms vague rumours of the same tenour which have been current the last few days, so I incline to think it substantially reliable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACLEOD.

No. 88.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 15, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he has learnt from native sources that considerable agitation exists among the tribes in the neighbourhood of Tafilelt, and that messengers are being dispatched to call upon the tribes to assemble at a fixed rendezvous whence operations should be undertaken against the French posts. The Viceroy of Tafilelt, it is said, had induced the tribal Chiefs to abstain from any action until he had had time to communicate with the Sultan, and that they had engaged to postpone any active operations for a period of six weeks.

These native reports as to unrest in the Tafilelt district are in a measure confirmed by Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, who told an informant of mine that very serious news had reached him from Tafilelt, which he had, hitherto, refrained from communicating to the Sultan. His Excellency gave no details.

On more than one previous occasion the Tafilelt tribes have threatened serious measures, but have abstained from putting their threats into execution; and indeed the general aspect of affairs in those parts appeared recently to indicate a prospect of tranquillity. It is possible that Bu Amama is causing trouble and is instigating the tribes; and he has hitherto shown no disposition to obey the summons to present himself at the Court.

I trust to receive some further details as to what is occurring at Tafilelt; but it is exceedingly difficult to obtain trustworthy information from that remote locality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 89.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 17, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, and which gives fuller details of what is reported to be passing in the Tafilelt district than were communicated in the short message which I originally received from Mr. MacLeod. I am inclined to attach some credit to these native reports, as the Minister of War has also received disquieting news. I have followed the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Fez, April* 10, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to state that yesterday a further native report became current here from the frontier.

The tribes between Figuig and Tafilelt are said to have told Muley Ershid—the

Sultan's agent at Tafilelt—that they meant to attack the French, with or without the Sultan's consent, and to have made a market and meeting place at Wad Mrbohh.

By sacrificing to them Muley Ershid is said to have induced the tribes, however, to defer actual hostilities for a month and a-half to allow of communication with the Court.

But the tribes warned Muley Ershid that they would attack him the first if permission to fight the French were refused, to which he answered that in such a case he would be the first to join them.

The report goes on to say that the French troops who left Igli are now encamped at Wad Abu Dil — about 40 miles north-west of Igli on the road to Tafilelt — and that the tribes' intention is to invest Juan Dar and thus by one movement engage the French there and cut communication with Igli.

These events are said to have happened about the 20th to 30th March.

The foregoing are, however, merely ordinary native reports, and so, of course, I transmit them with all reserve as to their exactness and only for your information.

I inclose a tracing of our Map No. 746, indicating the places referred to in this despatch and in No. 14 of the 7th instant. *

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 90.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 25.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 17, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137 of the 28th September, 1901, I have the honour to state that Sid Benasser Ghannam met the Diplomatic Body on the 12th instant to discuss the new scheme of agricultural taxes which the Sultan desires to impose on all classes in this country.

Sid Benasser Ghannam explained that the new taxes were to replace all other taxes of whatever nature; and that they were to be levied only once annually. In reply to a question, Sid Benasser Ghannam stated that the gate tax and the dues payable at the various markets and fairs in the country would naturally be maintained.

My colleagues all expressed their satisfaction at these explanations, and the examination of the several taxes was then proceeded with. Several of my colleagues and myself had made inquiries of those competent to judge, and had ascertained that the amounts it was proposed to levy were reasonable and just. The only modification suggested, and which Sid Benasser Ghannam accepted, was in regard to the tax on sheep, it being considered desirable to tax ewes more lightly than rams.

I beg leave to inclose a schedule of the proposed taxes, and I would be grateful if I could receive your Lordship's sanction to them. The only taxes which do not appear in the Règlement of 1881 are those on horses, donkeys, and mules which are used for domestic or pleasure purposes. These are entirely new taxes, but they are very light, being about 1*s.* 6*d.* per each horse or mule and about 7*d.* for each donkey, and all the Representatives trusted that no difficulty would be raised by any of their Governments.

A meeting will be held next week to endeavour to come to an arrangement with the Sultan's Commissioner as to the mode of levying and of payment of taxes; and I will address your Lordship further on this point.

The Sultan also wishes to consult the Diplomatic Body as to a tax on house property in towns; and this measure will be examined on a subsequent occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 90*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 21, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting the murder of a British subject during the night of the 17th instant. I also beg leave to inclose copy of a note, which I have addressed to the Sultan's Deputy here. His Excellency has sent orders to the Governor of Tetuan, in the sense desired in my communication, and I trust that due effect will be given to them.

Until further particulars are forthcoming it is impossible to ascertain the motive of the crime, or any of the circumstances attending it. I have instructed Mr. Bewicke to take charge of the property of the deceased, and I beg leave to transmit copy of a despatch which I have addressed to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90*.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Tetuan, April* 18, 1902.

IT is with regret that I have to confirm my private note of this morning, and to state that Mr. A. Alcock was shot in his garden last night.

Mr. Alcock was shot in the stomach, and the Spanish doctor—Dr. Palma—extracted the bullet (which is in my possession), in my presence, from the back. Dr. Palma thinks death must have been almost instantaneous.

Mr. Alcock lived alone in his garden, and one of his men used to take the key of one of the gates away with him at night. This man, on going to work this morning, discovered the body dead on the path under a tree. He says he at once informed the Governor; and on my asking why he did not come to me, he made some excuse; but afterwards, when I was away from the people, he told me that he had been told at the Governor's not to come to me. My soldier first informed me that he had heard of the death at 10·15 A.M. I sent him out to inquire if it were true, and he came back very soon and said it was, and that the Governor had sent down Adools to make a list of the things in the house, &c.

I at once went to the Governor and asked him if it was true, and he said it was. I then asked him to go to the garden with me at once, but he said there was no necessity—that the deceased was a Mahommedan, and, therefore, it was his duty to look after his possessions and attend to his burial. I told him it was no such thing, the deceased being an Englishman, and that he must go with me, but he refused to go till after mid-day prayers. It was then 10·45 A.M., and if he had been very quick it might have been just possible for him to be back in time.

I said I was going down at once with the doctor, and should await him there. He wanted me to return and go with him, but this I declined to do.

On arrival at the garden I found a number of the people there, including at least one Adool and the man who is given charge of the possessions of people who die without any representatives, and Rushdi, who said he was the Governor's Khalifa.

The doctor made his examination and extracted the bullet, and we then awaited the Governor's arrival. The rooms had all been previously locked up.

On the Governor's arrival I made a formal demand for the keys to be handed over to me, but he declined to do so, and said he had written to the Sultan's Agent (Naib) at Tangier, and till he got his answer he would not recognize me in the matter—the deceased being a Mahommedan.

I then informed him I had the bullet, which had been extracted, in my possession, and showed it to him.

By this time all arrangements for the burial were ready.

The Governor ordered a guard to be placed in the house, and a guard to be placed on his house in the town. He also said he was doing all he could to find the man who had killed deceased. There does not appear to be anything to trace him by.

In the afternoon I went to see the Governor, taking with me a copy, in Arabic, of the Treaty of 1857, which I happen to have, and asked him to read the articles referring to the case, *i.e.*, XIII, XVI, XVIII. He refused to do this, and again said he would do nothing till he had got his answer from Tangier; and, therefore, I am compelled to refer to you for instructions.

They appear to have made very decent arrangements for the burial.

I cannot help suspecting that they hoped I should not hear of the death till after the burial, and that they would have then tried to make it out death from natural causes; in fact Mr. Mahon was told, as he was going out with me, that the Adools had made out a paper to that effect.

They told me the body was found where I first saw it; but so many people had been about there that there was no chance of seeing if there had been a struggle or not. From its position it struck me that he might have heard someone about, and gone out to see and been shot; but I do not even know if his gun is missing, or what state his room was in.

Properly speaking, I suppose all the people who made the inventory, and the man who is now in charge of the keys, &c., should be made to swear that they have removed nothing. If you desire this to be done I trust you will be able to get Hadj M. Torres to send orders to that effect, as without, I feel certain that the Governor will not order them to swear.

I regret to have to add that I do not know the address of any of the deceased's people in England. He was registered as Arthur Alcock, Civil Engineer, town of Sunderland, son of Charles Alcock, deceased, of Chingford, Essex, aged 52. He was apparently well off, and always talked of his people as if they were very rich—if he did speak of them, which was seldom—but, as far as I know, never communicated with them. His great friend, whom he used to correspond with, and who, I believe, has charge of all or most of his money, is a Spaniard, whose name may possibly be found when we get possession of his papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90*.

Sir A. Nicolson to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, April* 19, 1902.

I HAVE received intelligence from Tetuan that Mr. Alcock, a British subject, was murdered in his garden at that place on the evening of the 17th instant. I must request your Excellency to send immediate orders to the Governor of Tetuan to do all in his power to discover and arrest the guilty party or parties, and to inform him that I shall hold him personally responsible for any remissness or neglect of duty in this respect.

I am most surprised to hear from the British Consul that the Governor sent Adools to the residence of the late Mr. Alcock, who took an inventory of the property of the deceased and locked up the house. The Governor, on an official request from the British Consul, declined to hand over the keys. This interference on the part of the Governor in the goods and property of a deceased British subject is in direct violation of Article XVIII of the General Treaty of 1856, and I must request your Excellency to send immediate orders to the Governor to abstain from all interference with the property of the deceased, and to at once hand over the keys to the British Consul.

I understand the Governor pretends that, owing to the deceased having adopted the Mussulman religion, the British Consul has no authority; but I would draw your Excellency's attention to Articles XIII and XVI of the General Treaty, which specifically state that no distinction is made between British subjects whether they are Christians, Mahommadans, or Jews. The action of the Governor is quite

unjustifiable, and can only be attributed to a regrettable ignorance of the provisions of the Treaties, though I may remark that when the British Consul gave him an Arabic copy of the Treaty he declined to peruse it.

I will, however, discuss the action of the Governor throughout this sad incident on a later occasion. The points I wish to impress on your Excellency and to request immediate and categorical orders are the adoption of all possible measures for the capture and arrest of the culprit or culprits, and the immediate delivery to the British Consul of the keys of the house and the abstention of all interference on the part of the Governor or his officials in the goods and property of the deceased.

Peace.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 90*.

Sir A. Nicolson to Vice-Consul Bewicke.

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Tangier, April* 19, 1902.

IMMEDIATELY on receipt of your despatch No. 22 of the 18th instant, reporting the murder of Mr. A. Alcock, I sent Mr. Irwin to Hadj Mohammed Torres to request that immediate and categorical orders be sent to the Governor of Tetuan to take all possible measures for the capture and arrest of the culprit or culprits; and I have informed his Excellency that I shall hold the Governor personally responsible for any neglect or remissness of duty in that respect.

In regard to the interference of the Governor in the goods and property of a deceased British subject, it is clear that such interference is in direct violation of the provisions of the Treaty; and I have requested Hadj Mohammed Torres to send stringent orders to the Governor to hand over the keys of the houses and rooms at once to you, and to abstain from all interference either on his own part or on that of his officials in the goods and property of the deceased.

If you have not already done so, you should, after endeavouring to ascertain from any papers which may be accessible, the address of any of the relatives of the deceased, affix the seals of your Consulate on all doors and entrances of the houses, and you should place some trustworthy persons in charge of the premises. I will send you later further instructions as to subsequent steps.

I presume you will have obtained from the Spanish doctor a certificate of the cause of the death, and you should take such steps as you properly can for assisting the Governor in his endeavours to gain some clue to the murder. If it be necessary to search the premises and gardens for that purpose, you should do so in company of some one deputed by the Governor.

You should inform the Governor that a serious responsibility rests upon him, and that he must do his utmost to discover and arrest the culprits. You may add that I have informed the Sultan of what has occurred. I should be glad to be informed at what hour the Governor was made acquainted with the murder, and what steps he took on receipt of that intelligence.

You should keep me fully informed of all that passes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I inclose the orders which I have received from Hadj Mohammed Torres. You should deliver the letter personally to the Governor, and receive from him all the keys of which he has possession and which open the houses of the late Mr. Alcock.

A. N.

Inclosure in No. 90.

PROPOSED TAXES.

	Dollars.	£	s.	d.
On each camel	1	About	0	3	0
,, young camel of 3 years of age	½	,,	0	1	6
,, head of cattle	½	,,	0	1	6
,, calf or heifer	¼	,,	0	0	9
,, 100 rams	10	,,	1	10	0
,, 100 ewes	8	,,	1	4	0
,, 100 goats	5	,,	0	15	0
,, horse or mule	½	,,	0	1	6
,, donkey	⅛	,,	0	0	7
,, 100 olive and almond trees	5	,,	0	15	0
,, 100 fruit trees (orange, lemon, and palm trees)	2½	,,	0	7	6
On every 100 other trees	1¼	,,	0	3	9
Vegetable and henna gardens the amount cultivated each year will be assessed and ⅒th paid.					
Grain sown in arable land according to the number of yoke of ploughing animals.					
For each yoke of camels, horses, or mules ..	10		1	10	0
,, oxen..	5		0	15	0
,, donkeys	2½		0	7	6

No. 91.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 65.)

Tangier, April 21, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 29th January, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Mogador, reporting the release from prison of a considerable number of political prisoners. I propose to inform the Sultan that this measure will be welcomed in my country, and to express the hope that the clemency of His Majesty will be extended to the other political prisoners who are still detained in Mogador Gaol.

The opportunity will also be a suitable one for recalling to His Majesty his intention of establishing a proper system of prison control and inspection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Madden to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 4.)

Mogador, April 16, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 31 of the 31st December last, I have the honour to report that 248 political prisoners from Rahamna were released yesterday from the Mogador Kasbah Prison by Sultan's orders, and it is believed that the whole of the Rahamna prisoners, of whom some forty still remain, who were not included in His Shereefian Majesty's letter, will also be set free later.

I was present when the prisoners were being called by name out of the gaol by the Kaid of Mogador. They all looked very pale and ill, many being unable to stand up: others laid on the ground: those who were too ill to walk were removed to the barracks on donkeys. Two of those who were released have since died in the town, and of those still in the prison two more died yesterday. Some, however, have already left for their homes in the country in Rahamna.

His Majesty's act of clemency, besides being a most humane one, will be of much advantage to the townspeople of Mogador, where the presence of so great a mass of poor people in their midst under such conditions of crowding and ill-health as they existed in could not but be a source of danger to the public health.

I beg to append a list of the numbers of political prisoners still in Mogador Gaol about whom no mention is made in His Majesty's orders of release :—

From Howara (Sus)	.. ..	100	(more or less).
„ Abda ..	.. ..	200	„
„ Misfewa	.. ..	50	„
„ Dukalla	.. ..		
„ Seraghua	.. ..		
„ Mixed tribes	.. ..		
Total (about)	.. ..	350	

The number of those political prisoners who were sent to Mogador about seven years ago amounted to 1,800; a few were released, but by far the greater number have died.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHIBALD M. MADDEN.

P.S. *April* 17.—I beg to add that the remaining Rahamna prisoners are being released to-day.

A. M. M.

No. 92.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 67 A. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 24, 1902.

THE Spanish Minister told me to-day that he had instructed the Spanish Colonel attached to the Moorish expedition in search of the Spanish captives to return to Tangier, as the operations against the Beni M'Zara tribe were concluded. M. de Ojeda stated that Mulay Amrani had now convinced himself that the captives were not, and never had, been with the Beni M'Zara; and, therefore, he shortly intended to proceed against the Beni Aroz tribe, who had originally abducted the captives, and that the Spanish Colonel would then rejoin the expedition.

I inquired of M. de Ojeda whether Mulay Amrani intended to exact the penalties imposed on the Beni M'Zara tribe, and which I mentioned in my despatch No. 49 of the 15th March, if it were the fact that this tribe had been innocent of any complicity in the abduction of the captives. M. de Ojeda replied that he did not know; it was a matter with which he had no concern; he believed the Beni M'Zara had been unruly and disobedient, but their punishment or otherwise was a question for the Moorish Government to decide.

I said I had understood from him on a former occasion that the Beni Aroz had made their submission, and were therefore to be exempted from any punishment.

M. de Ojeda said he did not recollect having said anything to give me that impression. It was now fairly certain that the captives had never left the hands of the Beni Aroz, and it was probable they were now both dead. In any case, Mulay Amrani proposed shortly to proceed against them.

The information now communicated to me by M. de Ojeda is not quite in accord with that which he has hitherto been good enough to furnish me; and I confess to having some difficulty in seeing clearly through the various phases of the expedition.

The expedition is a costly one to the Moorish Treasury, and the object for which it was dispatched appears still somewhat distant; and some time will evidently elapse before the Moorish Government will be in a position to relieve themselves of the burden it imposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 93.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 43.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 3, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 63 of the 17th ultimo relative to the new scheme of agricultural taxes, which the Sultan desires to impose on all classes in Morocco.

The proposed taxes, as set forth in the Schedule which accompanies your despatch, appear to me to be reasonable, and you may accept them as sanctioned by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 94.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 65 of the 21st ultimo, reporting the release from the Mogador Kasbah prison, by the Sultan's orders, of a considerable number of political prisoners.

I approve the communication which you propose to make to the Sultan on the subject, and you will do well to inform His Majesty at the same time that the measures which he has ordered for improving the sanitary condition of the prisons and the treatment of the prisoners have attracted attention in this country and have been the subject of favourable comment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 95.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 30, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that the serious news which Mehedi-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, stated that he had received from Tafilelt was to the following effect:—

His Excellency had been informed that all the tribes round Tafilelt had combined together under one Chief, and had taken oath to resist by force any attempt on the part of the French to enter their territories. El Menebhi stated that he had heard that the Ait Atta alone could muster 100,000 men, and that after the harvest was over, the tribes would be able to put into the field some 200,000 men. His Excellency added that he gathered that the tribes were in a restless and excitable state; but that he did not think it likely they would raise any opposition to the prolongation of the railway provided it did not pass through their districts.

His Excellency further stated that the Moorish Commissioner Gabbas had proceeded to visit the tribes and explain to them the nature of the Agreement arrived at with the French, but that they had declined to listen to him, and threatened his life unless he withdrew.

A Royal letter had now been sent to the tribes distinctly stating the terms of the Agreement with the French, and naming all the places on the new frontier line, and El Menebhi trusted that on receipt of this communication the tribes would be satisfied.

His Excellency said that it is necessary that the French authorities should act with great caution and tact, as otherwise it might be difficult to restrain the tribes.

I am informed that the Sultan has dispatched the most stringent orders to the tribes to abstain from all acts of aggression against the French authorities or forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 96.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 3, 1902.

SOME few weeks ago the Minister for Foreign Affairs, through Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, stated that the Moorish Government would be grateful if I would suggest a scheme for reorganizing the Customs Administration, so as to check the abuses which were prevalent in that Department and which deprived the Moorish Treasury of a considerable revenue.

I requested Mr. MacLeod to inform Abdelkrim Ben Sliman that I would think over the matter and give him a reply at a later date.

Having been in communication with your Lordship on the subject, and having been favoured with your Lordship's views as contained in your telegram No. 10 of the 1st instant, I have now privately requested Mr. MacLeod to verbally communicate to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the following message from me:—

I am grateful to His Majesty and his Excellency for having consulted me on the subject, and I should be happy to assist them as far as lay in my power. I am aware that great irregularities have occurred in the Customs Administration, which have resulted, on credible information which has been furnished to me, in depriving the Moorish Treasury of at least half of its legitimate revenue. I have unfortunately neither the information nor the knowledge which would enable me to present them with a detailed project of reform which would check irregularities on the part of the Customs officials, insure the full payment by foreign traders of the duties established by the Treaties, and at the same time secure a close supervision over the general system of collection.

It had occurred to me, however, that it might be well if the Moorish Government were to engage the services of a competent European, who could study the local conditions and be able to reorganize the present system and supervise the necessary reforms. In order to avoid any possible misapprehension, it would be advisable, in my opinion, to select for the above purpose a European from one of the minor and politically disinterested Powers—either from Denmark, Holland, Sweden or Belgium. Should this proposal commend itself to His Majesty and his Excellency, I am sure that my Government would be glad to be consulted on the subject, and would, I doubted not, be pleased to assist the Sultan in finding a properly qualified person of known integrity from one of the above-mentioned Powers. If this suggestion were agreeable to His Majesty and his Excellency, I should be glad to receive a written application from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which would afford me a basis for communicating confidentially with my Government on the subject. I wished to explain further to his Excellency that, in my desire to promote the fiscal interests of the Moorish Government, I made the above communication in a private and confidential manner.

The above is what I have requested Mr. MacLeod to convey verbally to Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, and I have impressed on the former gentleman to maintain secrecy on the subject during the preliminary steps. I have full confidence in Mr. MacLeod's tact and discretion.

I do not know in what light the Sultan and his Government will view the proposal. I am convinced that no serious reforms in the Customs, and they are sadly needed, can be efficacious unless intrusted to the hands of skilled Europeans. I trust your Lordship will approve of the tenour of the communication which I have made. I understand that your Lordship wished me to defer the question of subordinate European employés till I had ascertained the views of the Moorish Government with respect to the appointment of a European Director.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit a report which Mr. Peto has supplied me in regard to the murder of the late Mr. Alcock at Tetuan, and which contains certain considerations to be noted.

I have obtained orders both from the Moorish Government and from the Sultan's Deputy here to the Governor of Tetuan to use his best endeavours to discover the culprit and to examine, and, if necessary, to detain, any witnesses whom the British Vice-Consul may desire to have called. Hitherto no trace of the murderer has been obtained.

The question of the early action of the Governor and of the alleged disappearance of certain property of the deceased are matters which can be dealt with later. It is, I think, at present necessary to concentrate the attention of the authorities on searching both for the culprit and for the motive of the crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Report on the murder of Mr. Alcock at Tetuan.

DURING the deceased's seven years' residence in Tetuan, he was mixed up in such innumerable intrigues with women of all sorts, some of them ending in unpleasantness of various descriptions, that on this score alone a certain amount of suspicion is pretty evenly distributed in several directions. He had become a Mahommedan, and had married a Moorish woman with Mahommedan rites; she left him for another man about two years ago.

He was at the same time a very quarrelsome man, who made many enemies, and a physically very powerful man, whose enemy's revenge would probably take the form of a shot in the dark. He was also known to have been well-to-do, which might have made robbery the motive of the crime.

At present there is no trace of any recent and bitter quarrel, but as the deceased dressed and lived like a Moor, and lived almost entirely with Moors, it is not very easy to find out all the details of his daily life.

The local Governor's action in having the houses examined (he had one in the town and another in the country) before the Vice-Consul saw them, and having everything in them turned upside down, has made it almost impossible to determine whether a robbery took place or not. At any rate the houses can have only contained things of very little value, as the murdered man lived in very poor Moorish style, with no indoor servant, and even cooked his own food.

His books show that he had some 2,000*l.* in the hands of a M. Prieto-Pazo, of Madrid, and his land in Tetuan, with his two houses, is worth about 150*l.*

A list of a few rings, studs, pins, &c., has been found among his papers, and these the Vice-Consul is certain were kept in the town house, where no trace of them was to be found when the latter got there, though the murder was committed at his country place.

This country house is about 1½ miles outside the town; deceased had been warned by the Basha not to live there at present on account of the increasing lawlessness of the Reefi tribe.

After an examination of the place, it is pretty evident that, walking down the centre path of his long narrow garden, he was shot from the hedge which separates his garden from his neighbour's; there are plenty of traces there, and a large hole in the hedge; he must have faced round towards it (it runs parallel to the path) on hearing some noise, as the bullet entered the middle of his stomach and lodged in the spine. The doctor says that death must have been instantaneous, and took place some ten hours before the discovery of the body, which would fix the time of the murder at about 10 o'clock at night.

It might here be mentioned that the neighbour who shared this boundary hedge, is a man with whom the deceased has been on very bad terms for years; their quarrel related to the neighbour's windows, which overlook deceased's garden, which is not allowed by Moorish law. The neighbour is still building the wall which he had been ordered to erect by the Government to conceal the view from his windows. No evidence has been forthcoming of any violent personal *rencontre* between the two, though there had been some discussion about this difference as late as a fortnight before the murder. The neighbour was a somewhat cantankerous man, not unlike deceased himself.

Of the many theories about the murder, perhaps only two deserve especial mention:

1. That his death was procured by his runaway wife and her lover to secure her inheritance of the property, or at least that part of it which would have been her right if deceased had really been subject to Moorish law, as she, doubtless, thought he was after his adoption of the religion of the country.

2. That it was a murder by Reefs with either revenge, robbery, or both, for its object.

With reference to the first supposition, the man for whom his wife left him was very frightened of deceased, who had threatened to shoot him, and the pair at one time took refuge in a Saint's house, though they still continued to live in Tetuan afterwards. No evidence can be gathered as to whether anything had recently transpired between the murdered man and his wife and her lover.

The foundation of the story of possible revenge on the part of the Reefi tribe is based on the fact that a Reefi woman, who was about to have a child some four months ago, it was supposed, by deceased, was given medicine, which either contained poison or was given her in excessive doses; at any rate she died of it, and rumour pointed to the deceased as her murderer. The Governor appears to believe this story, which is not very substantiated; the deceased had discussed her death with the Vice-Consul, and always declared that another Reefi had done it. The Reefis are particular about their women, and on the strength of this suspicion might quite easily have killed both deceased and the woman.

Various clues relating to each of these theories are being followed up, but evidence is either exceedingly difficult to obtain or suspiciously easy. It is only by the most careful management that the Basha can be got to enter into the spirit of the thing. He is exceedingly ignorant and stupid and also incurably lazy, and at the same time so particular as to what he considers is due to him, that he would rather go to considerable trouble than let the management of the case, which he is totally unable to conduct, out of his hands for a moment; his whole aim and object is, therefore, to obstruct as much as possible. Eminently characteristic of him is the fact that he was foolish enough to solemnly maintain that he knew nothing of Treaties, and that it was not a Governor's business to know them; this erroneous impression has now, however, been removed.

The prisoners at present under detention are four outdoor servants of deceased, of whom two were in his service at the time of his murder, and a Reefi who was seen near the place on the night of the murder.

But up to the present no evidence of any value has been extracted from any of them.

May 4, 1902.

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 2, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a letter from Cid Mohammed Torres informing me that the export duty on wheat has been reduced for this season to ten reals de vellon per fanega, the Sultan, however, reserving the right to raise it again at the end of a year.

Ten reals de vellon are equivalent at par to 2*s.*, but at the rates of exchange recently ruling it is about 1*s.* 6*d.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 13, 1902.

CUSTOMS reforms. My despatch No. 72.

Suggestion as to Director from a minor Power approved entirely by Sultan.

The Sultan would be pleased to know whether he should communicate to the other Powers this proposal after or before appointment is made.

He would also like to know if the negotiation as to the selection of the Director should be made through your Lordship or through the Government of his own nation. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, I think, is anxious in regard to first point, to notify without delay to other Powers, it is quite possible if he has this on his mind, that the scheme would leak out.

On the other hand, pressure might be brought to abandon scheme if notification before appointment was made. I should mention, in connection with the second point, that the interests of the Dutch and Swedes are in the hands of the German Legation, of the Danes in charge of this Legation, and there is a Belgian Consul here.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1902.

MOORISH Customs reforms.

With reference to your telegram No. 17 of the 13th instant, you may inform the Sultan that His Majesty's Government are prepared to ascertain privately for him whether any good men are available for the Directorship, a Dane for choice. The Sultan could then be informed of result of inquiries, and he could, if he thought proper, send through you for the gentleman selected, and set him to work, subject to confirmation in his appointment in the event of his proving in all respects suitable.

I deprecate the idea of communicating the proposal to the Powers, for if this were done, the alarm would be sounded at once.

No. 101.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 72, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, giving the terms of the message which you have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod to communicate verbally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to the request of the Moorish Government that you would suggest a scheme for the reorganization of the Customs Administration. I approve the tenour of the message, and the warning given by you to Mr. MacLeod to maintain secrecy during the preliminary discussions.

With regard to the last sentence in your despatch, you have correctly interpreted my wishes in deferring the question of subordinate European employés until the views of the Moorish Government as to the appointment of a European Director have been ascertained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 102.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 51.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 73 of the 4th instant, inclosing Mr. Peto's Report respecting his visit to Tetuan to make inquiries with regard to Mr. Alcock's murder.

I approve Mr. Peto's proceedings as described in the Report, and the steps taken by you relative to the discovery of the culprit, and the examination and detention of witnesses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 103.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)

Tangier, May 14, 1902.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 72 of the 3rd May, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting a conversation he has held with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to reforms in the Customs Administration.

I doubt if an International Board of Customs would work well in practice, but it is evident that to insure the efficient execution of any reforms it will be necessary to have European superintendents at each port under the control of the Director. This is a point which will necessarily present itself for decision when the Director submits his project of reorganization.

The question as to notifying to the Powers the intention of the Sultan to engage the services of an European Director of Customs is one on which I hardly venture to give a definite opinion, I shall doubtless receive telegraphic instructions from your Lordship on this point before this despatch reaches your Lordship's hands, as I mentioned the matter in my telegram of yesterday.

As regards the nationality of the future Director and the mode in which his selection should be determined, I will await your Lordship's instructions.

Neither Denmark, Holland, or Sweden have Representatives here, the interests of the former country being in charge of this Legation, while those of the other two countries are entrusted to the German Minister.

It would, I think, be of advantage if the Director were of Danish nationality, as he would be in relations with this Legation, whose commercial interests are of more importance than those of any other country.

The Belgian Minister died here recently; and the Belgian Consul is in charge of the Legation. I do not know if the Belgian Government contemplates appointing another Minister, but for certain reasons I think it would be advisable that the future Director should not be connected with the Belgian Legation as at present constituted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22. Confidential.)

Fez, May 7, 1902.

Sir,

I RECEIVED your letter of the 2nd instant yesterday, and, by appointment, I had a long interview with Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, this morning on its subject matter.

After giving him your greetings, I said you thanked the Sultan and him for their confidence in consulting you on the question of Customs reform. You were convinced

that the Moorish revenue did not receive half—or may be not a third—from the customs which, under skilful and honest supervision, they might yield, and that it was highly important they should be thoroughly reorganized and strictly controlled.

You, however, considered the supervision of customs, and the like, was a special science or profession, and, therefore, you thought that the Moorish Government would do well to procure the services of an European expert of high ability and unquestionable integrity to study the matter, draw up a scheme of reorganization, and supervise the carrying out of the reforms it might contain.

But it would, you feared, be apt to give rise to misapprehension if such an expert were selected from any Great Power, and so you advised that the person chosen should be of Belgian, Dutch, Danish, or Swedish nationality, all of which minor Powers possessed men thoroughly qualified for such a charge, and whose appointment would excite no jealousy in any quarter.

If this idea were approved by the Sultan, and the Moorish Government made a written application in this sense, and were careful therein to maintain the initiative (as they had in their verbal mention of the matter) you would be happy to consult His Britannic Majesty's Government confidentially upon it, and would do your best to further the Sultan's interests, and you felt sure your Government would be pleased to assist the Sultan to find a thoroughly qualified man from one of the minor nations referred to.

But the Vizier, I added earnestly, would understand this communication was strictly private and confidential.

The Vizier replied that you could rely upon his secrecy in the affair, and that he was exceedingly obliged for the good-will and friendship you had shown in studying it, and that he felt sure the Sultan, to whom he would at once communicate the foregoing, would no less appreciate your kindness.

He, the Vizier, considered these suggestions, and your reason for them, very sound. He went on to say that the Moorish Government had had an idea of making a sort of Board of Customs, to be composed of Europeans of various nationalities, and he wondered whether you would approve that plan.

I answered that you had not mentioned to me any but the suggestion already detailed, though the other was a plan which could hardly have failed to occur to you, so I supposed you would consider your suggestion the more advisable.

The Vizier then remarked that he did not quite see how one man could control, and personally supervise, by going from place to place, all the customs in Morocco.

I answered it was often surprising to those who had not made such business a special and life-long study how much could be done by even one able and energetic man deeply versed in it. He could devise systems of accounts which would leave little or no room for fraud without speedy detection, and he could periodically draw up reports for the Moorish Government's information, and thus enable them to proceed safely from one improvement to another.

I pointed out that a really first-rate man in the position referred to would have a reputation to maintain in his work, and a still higher reputation to gain by his success, and that, being alone, he would not be kept busy by refuting counter-projects of rival Europeans, but be able to devote his undivided attention to the development of those reforms which his experience might suggest.

Moreover, when this gentleman's report and recommendations were submitted to the Sultan, His Majesty would obviously be able then, better than just now, to decide whether he should continue his work alone, or with European colleagues, or European subordinates.

I was careful to explain to the Vizier that you had not given me reasons for having only one European, and so I only thought it probable you might have those, or like, reasons in view.

The Vizier then asked whether you would have any objections to the Moorish Government's communicating their desire just now in this matter to other Great Powers as well as Great Britain?

I answered that, as you had not mentioned that point in your letter to me, I could not say.

The Vizier then inquired "what I thought would be your opinion" about that, and he added my answer would only be a private remark between ourselves for his guidance.

Thus pressed, I replied that, judging from the importance you attached to privacy in the matter, and because it struck me that, if the Powers learned of the project before an appointment were made, each Power might become anxious to put forward a man of

their own nationality, and thus embarrass the Moorish Government in making a selection, it seemed to me more likely that you would not like the project to be communicated to other Powers until the appointment had been made. All this, however, the Vizier would clearly understand was only surmise on my part. (This, I thought, was the safest answer to give to the Vizier, for, if you dissented from it, no harm would be done, for you could communicate it or advise it being made known when you chose, whereas if the Moorish Government told the Powers forthwith of the project, that option would not remain to you.)

The Vizier then said he clearly understood all I had told him, and would recommend the Sultan to adopt your suggestion which he meant to submit at once to His Majesty, and he would let me know the result as soon as possible for communication to you.

Meanwhile, he sent you his warmest greetings and his sincerest thanks for your kindness in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—I have just seen the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and he says the Sultan has expressed his entire approval of your advice in the Customs matter. His Majesty, however, before ordering a written communication to be made to you on the subject, would be glad to have your advice on two points, viz. :—

1. Whether or not the project should be communicated to the Foreign Representatives before the appointment in question was made?

2. The manner of engaging the expert referred to. Should he be engaged in Europe by or through the British Government? or by or through the Government of his nation? or should he be invited to Tangier (and, if so, by whom?) and there treat with the Sultan's Representatives, Torres or Ghannam. This latter is the course the Moorish Government would prefer.

J. M. MACL.

No. 104.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting rumours which are current as to affairs on the frontier.

I am informed by the Minister of War that he has received hitherto no confirmation of the assassination of the Moorish Commander, but that he had heard that the tribes announced their intention, as soon as the harvest was gathered, of assembling together to decide on their course of action.

El Menebhi further stated that he had learnt from one of his confidential agents that the French troops intended shortly to occupy the Figuig oasis. His Excellency said that if this were to occur it would be impossible to restrain the tribes, who would lose all faith in the Sultan's assurances that the frontier would be strictly observed, and no further encroachment made on the part of the French. El Menebhi added that the Moorish Government were doing all in their power to keep the tribes quiet, but if the French were not tactful and cautious, the efforts of the Government would be of no avail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir N. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 8, 1902.

A REPORT became current here last night that the Commander of the Sultan's troops at Tafilet, one Kaid Emtai, had been killed by the Berbers there about ten days ago, and that his men had taken sanctuary at Mulai Ali Shereef.

The report has it, that the Kaid assembled the people of that district and read to them a Shereefian letter, enjoining them not to molest the French, and to assist in catching Bu Amama, and in giving effect to the frontier arrangements made by the Franco-Moorish Commissioners recently.

The same report states that 1,000 sheep sent by the French from Zubia to Igli were recently stolen by Berbers, headed by a son of Bu Amama.

It is also alleged that French reinforcements are constantly reaching Ain Sefra and Zubia, and that as soon as their present harvest is secured, the Berbers between Figuig and Tafilet mean to join Bu Amama and harass the French continually.

So far, however, I have had not the slightest confirmation of these reports, so I only mention them for what they are worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing I have seen the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and he has not heard yet, at any rate, of any trouble at Tafilet itself. But the Court has heard rumours that two soldiers who were recently sent to Tafilet with letters ordering the tribes to keep quiet were waylaid, and when the letters had been read, killed in Aits Izdig. But the Court has no official report of the affair. The Minister had no other news from the frontier.

J. M. M.

No. 105.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 15, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 74 of yesterday's date, and to your Lordship's telegram No. 11, I have the honour to state that I have requested His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to communicate verbally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the following message from myself:—

"I am pleased to learn that my proposal has met with the approval of His Majesty, as I feel assured that it will tend to improve his revenues and bring order and regularity into a very important branch of his Administration.

"I hardly think that an International Board of Customs would work well in practice, though it is possible, if not probable, that the Director will require, in order to carry out the reforms efficiently, to have subordinates of different nationalities as superintendents at the various ports.

"The question is not yet sufficiently ripe for notification to the other Powers; and indeed I am sure that a communication to them at this moment would lead to serious difficulties; I will let him know when the time arrives for making a notification. The best *modus operandi* would be the following: 'That his Excellency should address me a note asking for our good offices in seeking for a man of capacity and integrity to inquire into the customs administration and to suggest the necessary reforms. I may inform his Excellency that my Government would be quite ready to ascertain privately from among the minor Powers, I mentioned in my previous letter, whether any competent person is available for the purpose required.'

"My Government would inform the Sultan of the result of these inquiries; and if His Majesty were satisfied I should be happy to be the channel of procuring the presence in Morocco of the person selected who could then enter on his functions.

"If he were found suitable in all respects, his appointment as Director could then be confirmed, and he could be allowed to put his project into execution.

"I am desirous, and I can answer also for my Government, to assist the Sultan in the very sensible project he has in view, and I should be glad to receive a reply as soon as possible, so that I may communicate with my Government. In the meantime I must repeat once more the necessity of keeping the question private and confidential."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 20, 1902.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed me a note in which he says that the Sultan wishes to dispense with, at the end of their six months' engagement, the services of the two English drill sergeants. I am desired by His Majesty to procure the services of a drummer, a bugler, and also of a cavalry instructor.

This mode of procedure is novel, and as nothing has been said on the subject by Kaïd Maclean, the step, I think, has been taken without his knowledge or that of the Minister for War, more especially as Sultan expressed a wish that no intermediary should be used to make above arrangement. Minister for Foreign Affairs begs for a reply. I should cause disappointment and possibly Sultan would apply elsewhere, if I were to decline to undertake arrangement. Before acting on request, I think it would be advisable to ask for further details as to pay, &c., and thus have time to communicate with Kaïd Maclean, and endeavour to ascertain the meaning of this new departure. Your Lordship's views would be gratefully received on this subject.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, communicating some native reports as to frontier affairs.

The first report which Mr. MacLeod mentions may have some basis on fact, but I should doubt whether the second rumour is authentic. The Moorish Government have not yet succeeded in inducing Bu Amama to present himself at Fez, and it is possible that the refractory tribes look to him for direction and guidance.

Harvest operations will shortly be concluded, and if the tribes really contemplate causing trouble, the moment will then very likely be considered a favourable one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 12, 1902.

A RUMOUR became current here this morning that about fourteen days ago a fight occurred near Wad Gir between part of the Douimenia people, assisted by Berber neighbours, and a French force from Igli, assisted by another part of the Douimenia.

The rumour has it that those of the Douimenia who had submitted to the French were not allowed by their fellow-tribesmen to gather their harvest.

They complained to the authorities at Igli, and a French force was sent to support them.

Meanwhile the other Douimenia people, joined by numbers of their Berber neighbours, attacked the French force near Wad Gir, and drove it back to Igli, with considerable loss on both sides.

I have not heard any further details, nor, so far, the least confirmation of the story, so I only mention it for what it is worth.

Wild rumours are also current that the Berbers, in disgust at not being supported against the French, talk of proclaiming Bu Amama their Sultan, and one story even

No. 106*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 22, 1902.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 20th instant, No. 18, reporting that the Sultan will dispense with the services of the two English drill sergeants on the termination of their six months' engagement, and that His Majesty wishes to obtain through you the services of a cavalry instructor, a bugler, and a drummer.

I approve your proposal to ask for further details as to pay, &c., before acting on this request.

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alleges they have begun to use his name in their public prayers instead of that of Mulai Abd-el-Aziz.

Should I learn anything at all confirmatory of these very vague and improbable reports, I will of course inform you at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 108.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 17, 1902.

Mr. E. GURNEY, a gentleman much interested in many philanthropic works, and who pays frequent visits to Morocco, recently spoke to me on the question of the spread of drunkenness among the natives, and inquired whether some steps could not be taken to check the import and sale of liquor. I told Mr. Gurney that as regards the import trade it would be difficult to take any measures, as the Treaties placed no restrictions on the introduction of spirits, but that possibly the Moorish Government could take steps for checking the consumption of alcohol among their own subjects.

Mr. Gurney, who paid a visit to Fez, spoke both to the Sultan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, but I gather he was unable to obtain any definate suggestions from them, though the Minister for Foreign Affairs deplored the sale of alcoholic liquors, the consumption of which was forbidden by the Mussulman religion.

I requested His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to send me a report on the subject, and I have the honour to transmit a copy of his despatch. I am making inquiries at Casablanca as to whether there has been any marked increase of drinking habits among the natives in that district.

At Tangier, especially among the classes who are in close relations with Europeans, either as domestic servants or in other capacities, there has doubtless been a considerable increase of drunkenness among the natives.

The European population of Tangier has largely augmented of late years, numbering, it is said, now some 7,000 souls, and there are many public-houses and drinking shops, some of a very low class. These at present are under no control and are unlicensed, and easily available temptations are thus offered to the natives. This is a condition of affairs which distinctly requires a remedy.

I have ventured to report to your Lordship on this subject, as it is possible that Mr. Gurney or one of the Societies of which he is a member, may address your Lordship in regard to this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 12, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to submit hereinafter the result of inquiries I have recently made here regarding the liquor traffic, the increase of which has lately attracted some public attention at the ports.

From time immemorial the Jews have been allowed here to make wines and spirits, for their own use, from grapes, raisins, figs, and, occasionally, dates. Formerly these liquors were made under Government licence, but early in the reign of Mulai-el-Hassan, about 1880, the Moorish Government discontinued the granting of licences on the ground that it was a sin under the law of Islam to gain money from such a trade.

The result naturally was simply to remove the only restriction on the trade.

Of these native-made liquors there can be no doubt that a certain proportion was always bought and consumed secretly by lax Moslems of both sexes.

About twelve to fifteen years ago the Jews, however, began to find it cheaper, in years of bad fruit crops, to buy foreign spirit than to distil their liquors.

Since then a certain, but very varying amount of trade has naturally sprung up in this foreign spirit, mostly of German manufacture. Precise local information on this point is, however, unobtainable, as no Government account of any sort is kept in connection with the trade here.

Herewith I inclose a statement extracted from British Consular Reports, showing the value of intoxicating liquors imported at Tangier, Laraiche, and Tetuan from 1890 to 1900, both inclusive.

In this it will be seen that the import of liquor, all round, has not increased either at Laraiche or Tetuan, but only at Tangier.

Had there been an increasing demand for foreign liquors at Fez and Mequinez, it could hardly have failed, I think, to appear in the Laraiche Returns, Laraiche being the port from which heavy merchandise of low value mostly reaches this district.

Moreover, as far as one can judge from personal observation and common report, there has not been any visible increase of drinking amongst the inhabitants of these parts during late years.

On inquiring, I am told there are only about half-a-dozen wholesale importers of liquor here, and about thirty retailers, and both the wholesale and retail trades are confined to the Jews in their own quarter.

No foreign subjects or foreign-protected persons are engaged in the trade, so it would not seem difficult for the Moorish Government to forestall any tendency of this traffic to increase by imposing heavy excise duties on the manufacture of native wines and spirits, and to exact a high rate for licences to trade in them or in foreign liquors.

Obviously, to make such action thoroughly effective, a corresponding increase of import duty on foreign spirit should be made, otherwise the only result of an excise duty would be to increase the sale of the already cheap foreign spirit.

The Moorish authorities here punish drunkenness with commendable severity, that is to say, open drunkenness, and one very rarely sees an intoxicated Moslem in the streets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Imports of Intoxicating Liquors in North Morocco.

EXTRACT from British Consular Reports.

Year.	Tangier. Value.	Laraiche. Value.	Tetuan. Value.
	£	£	£
1890	9,789	Not given	400
1891	11,275	„	3,127
1892	10,274	730	750
1893	9,886	1,903	447
1894	10,011	2,252	320
1895	7,511	1,648	165
1896	8,839	1,650	371
1897	9,687	938	229
1898	17,481	1,018	210
1899	17,868	299	388
1900	12,470	463	357

No. 109.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 27, 1902.*

MY despatch No. 70.

I am informed by the Minister for War that the Sultan is sending a warning to the tribes not to undertake acts of aggression against the French by sending one of his uncles to Tafilelt with letters, and stating that any tribe who disobeys these orders His Majesty will severely punish.

No. 110.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 54. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 74 of the 14th instant, forwarding the report of a conversation held by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez with the Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the proposed reforms in the Moorish Customs administration.

I approve the language used by Mr. Macleod on that occasion, as reported in his despatch to you No. 22, Confidential, of the 7th May, and also the message sent by you to the Vice-Consul for communication to Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, which was recorded in your despatch No. 77, Confidential, of the 15th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 111.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 21, 1902.*

THE Sultan has been good enough to give in perpetuity a piece of ground adjoining the English church in Tangier, and it is proposed to inclose it and to utilize it as an English cemetery. There is a European cemetery at Tangier for all creeds and nationalities, but this cemetery is so full that the Diplomatic Body is seeking for a fresh locality at some distance from the town. The gift of the Sultan is, therefore, very well timed, and is much appreciated by the English community.

It will be necessary to inclose the ground, and, as this will be a somewhat expensive undertaking, I doubt if the English community and visitors, who have already shown much generosity in the erection of the church, would be enabled of themselves to find the necessary funds, in any case for some time to come. It would appear somewhat ungracious and ungrateful and also inconvenient were no steps taken to secure the ground so generously given by the Sultan, and I should be much obliged if your Lordship would permit me to utilize a portion of a fund which is now lying idle at the Legation bankers.

This fund, which amounts to 650*l.*, is the balance of an indemnity paid by the Moorish Government some few years back for the illegal imprisonment of some British-protected persons. It has been hitherto utilized for paying small claims with which it was unnecessary to trouble the Moorish Government, and some claims in the settlement of which protracted delays were occurring.

There are practically no pending British claims which would necessitate drafts on the above fund, and I think that, in all probability, the balance will remain untouched for a long time to come. In these circumstances, I should be grateful if your Lordship would permit me to devote 150*l.* from this fund for inclosing the ground destined for an English cemetery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 112.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 81.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 22, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 63 of the 17th April, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Regulation regarding the mode of collecting certain taxes from foreigners and foreign-protected persons, which has been drawn up between the Sultan's Commissioner and the foreign Representatives here. I understand that my colleagues are forwarding copies to their respective Governments, and I should be glad to be informed if your Lordship would sanction my signing the Regulation when the proper time arrives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Regulation.

RÈGLEMENT concernant les impôts à percevoir des étrangers et des protégés à la campagne et dans toutes les villes de l'Empire du Maroc sur les animaux tels que chameaux, bœufs, moutons, et chèvres, et tels que chevaux, mulets, et ânes de selle et de travail; sur les arbres fruitiers, les terrains de culture, les potagers et les plantations de henna. Le dit Règlement a été concerté entre Sid Benasser Ghannam, agissant au nom de Sa Majesté Chérifienne et les Représentants des Puissances au Maroc tel qu'il est développé dans les Articles suivants :—

Article 1er. Les étrangers et les protégés propriétaires de vergers, de bestiaux, ou d'animaux des différentes espèces énumérées dans les Articles suivants, ou ayant des terrains de labour, ou d'autre culture, payeront au Maghzen dans les conditions énoncées ci-dessous les mêmes impôts qui sont payés annuellement par les sujets du Sultan.

Art. 2. Les chameaux destinés à l'élevage, au labour, ou au transport payeront par tête en monnaie Azizie 10 derhams (soit en monnaie Espagnole 20 réaux de vellon). Les jeunes chameaux entrant dans la troisième année payeront 5 derhams ou 10 réaux; les bœufs et les vaches 5 derhams ou 10 réaux; les veaux et les génisses (drouba) 2½ derhams ou 5 réaux; les béliers 100 derhams le 100 ou 200 réaux; et les brebis 80 derhams ou 160 reaux; enfin les chèvres 50 derhams le 100 ou 100 réaux.

Au-dessous de 100 béliers, brebis, et chèvres la taxe sera perçue proportionnellement.

Art. 3. Les chevaux, les mulets, et les ânes d'élevage, de labour ou de charge payeront par tête, savoir :—

Les chevaux et les mulets 5 derhams ou 10 réaux; les ânes 2 derhams ou 4 réaux.

Art. 4. Il sera perçu par groupe de 100 arbres, savoir :—

Sur les oliviers de rapport et les amandiers 50 derhams ou 100 réaux.

Sur les orangers de diverses espèces et les palmiers 25 derhams ou 50 réaux.

Sur les autres arbres fruitiers y compris la vigne, et les arbres portant les fruits d'été et d'automne 12½ derhams ou 25 réaux.

Art. 5. Les terrains de culture et les étendues de terre labourées entre les arbres payeront une taxe fixée par paire de bêtes de labour (ou par charrue) soit :—

100 derhams ou 200 réaux par charrue de chameaux, de chevaux, ou de mulets.

50 derhams ou 100 réaux par charrue de bœufs.

25 derhams ou 50 réaux par charrue d'ânes.

Pour les labours effectués par une seule bête, à l'aide de la machine ou par d'autres moyens il sera perçu une taxe proportionnelle basée sur celle qui frappe l'étendue correspondante à une charrue.

Art. 6. Pour les potagers, plantations de henna, et d'autre culture il sera versé 5 pour cent sur le montant de l'estimation qui sera faite chaque année de la valeur de la récolte.

Art. 7. L'impôt annuel développé dans les Articles ci-dessus est égal pour tous, pour les fonctionnaires comme pour les particuliers, toutes réserves faites des droits et privilèges établis par les Traités.

Il ne pourra être réclamé aucun autre impôt à l'exception des arriérés antérieurs à l'établissement de ce Règlement, dus par les tribus Marocaines au Maghzen, et dont le payement s'impose.

Les taxes perçues sur les marchés de la campagne et des villes sur les objets vendus, et le droit des portes resteront en vigueur sur les bases de la Convention de Madrid, en date du 24 Rejjeb, 1293 (3rd July, 1880).

Art. 8. Le Maghzen désignera par chaque ville ou tribu un Amin et deux Adools chargés du recensement annuel. Avant le 1er Février de chaque année chaque étranger, censal ou protégé, remettra à l'autorité Consulaire de laquelle il relève, un état des biens indiqués plus haut qu'il possède. Celui qui parmi eux sera employé au service des Consulats remettra l'état de ses biens au Chef du poste diplomatique ou Consulaire dont il relève.

L'autorité Consulaire adressera avant le 15 Février au Gouverneur de la ville de sa résidence tous les états qui lui auront été remis; celui-ci les transmettra aux autorités compétentes désignées par le Maghzen afin qu'elles en vérifient l'exactitude.

Dans un délai de quatre mois à dater de la remise de ces états au Gouverneur, ces agents devraient renvoyer à ce dernier pour chacun des ressortissants étrangsrs un bulletin, numéroté et daté, portant le nom et le domicile de l'intéressé, le nombre de ses biens imposés, et le montant de ce qu'il doit de ce chef. Ce bulletin portera la signature de l'Amin et des deux Adools; le double en sera conservé par ceux-ci sur un régistre. Après avoir revêtu de son sceau les bulletins, le Gouverneur les enverra aux autorités Consulaires pour leurs ressortissants respectifs.

L'autorité Consulaire transmettra alors les bulletins, préalablement visés par ses soins, aux intéressés, qui devront payer, par l'intermédiaire du Consul, vers le 15 Juin, avant la fête de l'Ansara, les sommes portées sur ces bulletins. Après le paiement exécuté par l'intermédiaire du Gouverneur entre les mains de l'Amin, celui-ci et les deux Adools signerait chaque bulletin pour constater que le contribuable s'est acquitté à telle date.

Le bulletin, ainsi signé, sera rendu par l'Amin au Gouverneur pour être remis au contribuable par l'entremise de l'autorité Consulaire.

Art. 9. Toute dissimulation commise lors du recensement et qui sera constatée par l'enquête à laquelle procédera ultérieurement le Maghzen sera punie d'une amende dont le montant sera du double de la taxe afférente ou bien non déclaré; en cas de récidive cette amende sera encore doublée.

Art. 10. En cas de contestation au sujet du recensement avec l'étranger ou protégé, il sera désigné dans la ville la plus proche du lieu où la contestation se sera produite deux personnes, choisies l'une par le Gouverneur l'autre par le Consul duquel relèvera l'intéressé, et qui devront se transporter sur les lieux pour vérifier les faits. Si l'enquête donne raison au Maghzen l'intéressé aura à supporter les frais des déplacements des deux enquêteurs comprenant leurs salaires et la location des moyens de transport. Dans le cas contraire ces frais seront à la charge du Gouvernement Marocain.

Au cas où une contestation se produira au sujet du recensement des biens d'un Consul s'adonnant à l'agriculture ou à l'élève de bétail, les bulletins les concernant seront adressés au Chef du poste Diplomatique ou Consulaire de qui il relève, afin qu'il soit procédé aux mêmes formalités de vérification auxquelles sont soumis les autres contribuables.

En suite pour tous les contribuables à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent avis de la contestation devra être communiqué au Consul par les soins du Gouverneur avant l'expiration du délai énoncé dans l'Article 8. Passé ce délai toute réclamation sera repoussée, et le contribuable n'aura à payer que la taxe calculée d'après sa déclaration et portée sur le bulletin remis au Gouverneur par l'entremise du Consul.

De même dans le cas où un bulletin ne sera point remis aux Agents précités à l'époque où le bulletin doive leur parvenir, l'intéressé sera tenu de payer la taxe calculée par eux suivant l'inventaire qu'ils auront dressé sans qu'aucune réclamation puisse être admise de ce chef de la part du contribuable.

Si l'un des susdits (étrangers, protégés, &c.), refusait de payer les taxes à l'époque spécifiée par l'Article 8, et que des mesures de contrainte devinssent nécessaires, ces mesures seront prises exclusivement par les soins de l'autorité Consulaire.

Si deux ou plusieurs ressortissants étrangers de différentes nationalités, associées pour une entreprise agricole, ou pour l'élève du bétail, refusent de payer les taxes ou

les amendes visées par l'Article 9; en vertu de la Convention de Madrid, les autorités Consulaires respectives nommeront chacune un Délégué pour procéder à la contrainte.

Le montant des taxes versées au Gouvernement Chérifien par l'entremise des Consuls sera exempt des droits établis par les tarifs Consulaires.

Art. 11. Le Sultan a établi ce Règlement en raison de la situation actuelle; mais si ultérieurement Sa Majesté venait à décider d'y faire des modifications, une nouvelle réunion des Représentants des Puissances aurait lieu au sujet des modifications demandées.

De même si les Représentants des Puissances reconnaissaient l'utilité de modifications suggérées par l'expérience, ils auraient le droit de s'entendre à ce sujet avec Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour qu'une réunion eut lieu en vue d'un accord.

Art. 12. Les contestations relatives à l'application du présent Règlement devront être tranchées dans le plus bref délai par les soins de l'Amin chargé de l'inventaire et du Consul.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)

Tangier, May 22, 1902.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Sultan has decided to dispense with two English drill-instructors on the expiration of their six months' engagement, and requesting me to procure the services of an English cavalry instructor, as well as a drummer and a bugler.

In itself the question of replacing two instructors by others in a different capacity is not of any real importance; but there are one or two points in the present application which, I venture to think, should be taken into consideration.

In the first place, the engagement of any employés has never been negotiated through this Legation; and for various reasons it was of advantage that this Legation was not concerned with such matters. On this occasion the Minister for Foreign Affairs officially makes the application, and apparently without the knowledge of either the Minister for War, El Menebhi, or of Sir Harry Maclean, in whose departments such appointments would properly lie.

I am aware that of late a considerable tension has existed in the relations between the Foreign Minister and his colleague at the War Office, and Sir H. Maclean has on more than one occasion complained to me of the endeavours of the Foreign Minister to interfere in matters lying outside his Department, and appertaining to the Ministry of War.

I would submit that it would be undesirable that I should in any way be involved in the eddies of Court intrigues at Fez, and that if a request is officially made by the Foreign Minister by command of the Sultan, that request should be dealt with on its merits, irrespective of the motives which may have prompted it.

At the same time, it would be well to ascertain privately the reason of the present application being made direct to me, and apparently without the knowledge of the Minister immediately concerned.

In respect to the application itself it would, I submit, have been preferable if the Sultan had employed his usual channels for engaging the men he requires; but as he has applied to this Legation, it would, perhaps, be misunderstood were I decline to meet His Majesty's wishes. I would, with your Lordship's sanction, ask for some further details as to pay, &c., stating, at the same time, that on receipt of full information I would take steps for bringing the Sultan's request to the knowledge of the proper authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 12, and I beg leave to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A. N.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, May* 12, 1902.

I HAVE to inform you, oh friend, that His Majesty instructed me to write to your Excellency, the friendly, regarding the two drill-instructors who are here, to the effect that you are aware that the term of their employ, which is six months, has almost expired, as only about two months or less remain, and that he (compliments) has elected to dismiss them when their time expires. He then wishes your Excellency to bring one English instructor with a knowledge of cavalry drill, as His Majesty desires to organize a regiment of cavalry in a special manner which shall be properly drilled and governed by the said instructor.

His Majesty will take charge, personally, of all matters relating to it, and make all arrangements concerning it with the instructor himself and without any intermediary. The term of employment of this instructor will be for six months fixed, and, at the completion of that period, if His Majesty chooses to renew it, he will do so; in the other event, the instructor will be dismissed. He also trusts from your sincere friendship that you will bring one drummer and one bugler to instruct the Shereefian army in drumming and bugling. They will be engaged for three months; then, if some portions of the Shereefian army have been taught in that time, they will be dismissed; if not, they will be engaged for a further term sufficient for their instruction, a month or two for example; they will then be dismissed.

I have no doubt that you will know that what has induced His Majesty to impose this request on you is His Majesty's certainty of your sincere friendship and your good counsels, whose good results revert upon this Shereefian Empire, in perfect organization and improved conditions. May God fulfil our hope. I await your reply in conformity with what His Majesty hopes from your attention, in order that I may inform His Majesty thereof.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, May* 23, 1902.

I HAVE received, oh friend, the note, which by command of His Majesty the Sultan you were good enough to address to me on 3 Safar, 1320 (12th May, 1902), regarding the engagement of a cavalry instructor and of a drummer and a bugler. Your Excellency knows well that in all matters I am desirous of being of any assistance to His Majesty so far as I properly can; but before taking any steps in the present instance, I should be grateful to be furnished with information on one or two points.

I do not quite gather whether it is desired that the cavalry instructor should be an officer or a non-commissioned officer, *i.e.*, of the same rank and standing in the army as those with whose services His Majesty is now dispensing; and secondly, I should be glad to know what pay will be granted to the cavalry instructor as well as to the drummer and bugler. I should be glad if you would, oh friend, kindly supply me with information on these two points, so that I may do what I can to meet the wishes of His Majesty, to whom I beg your Excellency to convey my sincere respects.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 114.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 58.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 80 of the 21st ultimo stating that the Sultan has given, in perpetuity, a piece of ground adjoining the English Church at Tangier, and that it is proposed to inclose and to use it as an English cemetery.

I approve your suggestion that a part of the balance of the indemnity paid by the Moorish Government for the illegal imprisonment of some British protected persons should be employed in inclosing the ground, and I authorize you to utilize 150*l.* of the fund in question for the purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 28, 1902.

I HAVE been informed by the Minister for War that the Sultan is sending one of his uncles, Muley Abdelmalek, to Tafilelt, with a Shereefian letter which is to be read to the tribal Chiefs, ordering them to abstain from all acts of aggression against the French, and stating that His Majesty will cause any one who disobeys his injunctions to be severely punished. Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi added that although he had received no recent news from Tafilelt which gave especial reason for uneasiness, he still considered that the situation there was critical.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 116.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 61.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 81 of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of the Regulations relative to the collection of certain taxes from foreigners and foreign-protected persons, which have been drawn up by the Sultan's Commissioner and the foreign Representatives at Tangier.

I authorize you to sign the Regulations on behalf of His Majesty's Government when the proper time arrives.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 117.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 16, 1902.

ONE prisoner has confessed his share in the murder of Mr. Alcock, and has denounced two other men as confederates. The murder was apparently committed for robbery.

One of the men denounced is in custody, the other is still at large.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 82 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, translation of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the engagement of some military instructors for the Moorish army. The desire to obtain a "Colonel" should not be taken literally, as the Moors have a custom of giving all foreign commissioned officers that title.

I have been in private communication with Sir H. Maclean on the subject, and he appears to consider the proposed appointments unnecessary, as the non-commissioned officers at present in the Sultan's service are capable of teaching mounted infantry drill, and the Moorish regiments have already drums and bugles. These are matters on which I am quite unable to give an opinion, but as His Majesty has expressed the intention of terminating the engagement of the non-commissioned officers I hardly think I should press for their retention.

Sir H. Maclean is, very naturally I think, surprised and vexed that the application has been made without his knowledge, and is of opinion that his position at the Shereefian Court will thereby be seriously affected. I would respectfully submit that if his position and influence were diminished it would be most unfortunate and I have taken an opportunity in acknowledging the receipt of the note of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to intimate that it would be of advantage if Sir H. Maclean were consulted.

I trust your Lordship will approve this step. I have no desire to be involved in the intrigues which appear to be very active at this moment at Fez, but it seems to me that it would be well if a word were said on behalf of Sir H. Maclean.

I hope to be in London in the course of next month, and as by that time I shall probably have heard further from the Court, I would venture to suggest that steps for the engagement of the instructors might be postponed for the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Abdelkrim Ben Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 20 *Safar*, 1320 (*May* 28, 1902).

I RECEIVED your gracious reply relative to the cavalry instructor and the bugler and drummer about whom I had written to your Excellency, in which you inquire His Majesty's wishes as to whether he should be an officer or a non-commissioned officer, and also what salary would be granted him and the two others. I immediately brought your letter to His Majesty's notice (compliments) who instructed me to hasten to send a reply to you, firstly thanking you for the attention you have shown to this request which is as was expected from you.

As to the rank of the cavalry instructor it is desired it should be of the rank of a Colonel, and as to the salaries to be given to him, and the bugler and drummer, His Majesty leaves the matter of appointing their salaries to you and commits it to you to do your best.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM BEN SLIMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to Abdelkrim Ben Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, June* 4, 1902.

I HAVE received the friendly note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 20 Safar, 1320 (28th May, 1902), relative to the engagement of a cavalry instructor and others, and I will have pleasure in transmitting His Majesty's wishes to my Government.

I trust to be before long in London myself, and I should then have an opportunity of speaking to the proper authorities on the subject.

His Majesty has been pleased to leave to me the arrangements as to salaries, and I should, of course, be glad to do my best on this point. I am, however, ignorant of the scale of pay which would be suitable and proper, and there are several details as to forage, house accommodation, &c., on which I should like advice. It seems to me that it would be of advantage, and would certainly assist me, if your Excellency were good enough to consult Kaid Maclean on these points, whose long and faithful services in Morocco have rendered him a trustworthy and competent judge in such matters.

His opinion would be a valuable guide, and I should be grateful if your Excellency were disposed to consult him.

I am always happy to be of any service to His Majesty, and it is a pleasure to me to act in these matters with your Excellency.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 7, 1902.

THE town of Tangier is increasing with considerable rapidity, and many new buildings are being continually erected, but no supervision has been exercised and no regulations laid down as to the sanitary arrangements of the constructions, the owners being allowed to make what arrangements they please, which are usually of a primitive description and exceedingly injurious to public health. The question of the risk which is being thereby incurred has become so self-evident that the Diplomatic Body recently agreed to adopt some Regulations, which, it is trusted, will afford some security; and I have the honour to transmit a copy, in the hope that your Lordship will be pleased to agree to them so far as concerns British subjects.

The Regulations have been communicated to the Sultan's Commissioner here, and he has forwarded them to his Government for their sanction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Regulation.

(Translation.)

NO new building will be allowed to be inhabited before a Commissioner, specially appointed by the Sanitary Council with the approval of the Moorish authorities, has determined that the building offers no danger to public health.

Moreover, the plans of all projected drains cannot be carried into effect without the approval of the above-mentioned Commission.

No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 88.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 8, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence I regret to have to report that hitherto the murderer of the late Mr. Alcock at Tetuan has not been captured. Several persons are under detention, and have been examined in presence of the Governor but without eliciting any evidence which is of much assistance. The

deceased apparently was alone in his country house, situated about 2 miles from the town; and, so far as I can ascertain, the neighbouring gardens were untenanted on the night on which the murder occurred. Considerable suspicion rests on a certain Riffian who lived near to the late Mr. Alcock's house; and since the murder this man has disappeared. A Moorish youth who had formerly worked for the late Mr. Alcock stated to Mr. Bewicke that he had seen a gun belonging to the deceased in the hands of the above-mentioned Riffian, and that when he taxed the latter with being in unlawful possession of the property of the deceased, the Riffian had threatened to kill him if he mentioned the matter to any one. The Governor of Tetuan has been repeatedly requested to arrest the Riffian in question; but he asserts that he is unable to discover his hiding-place, and various rumours are afloat that he has decamped to the Riff country.

I have requested the Moorish Government to send an alert and active official to Tetuan to investigate the matter, as I am afraid the local authorities are not acting with much intelligence or vigour. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that the Sultan has appointed an official to make secret inquiries, and I have begged Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to notify to me the name of this person, so that I may place the Acting Birtish Vice-Consul in communication with him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 121.

Foreign Office to Mr. C. W. Alcock.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that a telegram has been received from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* stating that one of the persons who have been arrested in connection with the murder of Mr. A. Alcock at Tetuan has confessed to being implicated in the crime, and has denounced two other men to the authorities.

One of the latter is in custody, but the other is still at large.

Sir Arthur Nicolson adds that robbery would appear to have been the motive for the murder.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 91. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 13, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77 of the 15th ultimo, I regret to have to report that I have received no further communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in regard to the project for reforms in the Customs Administration.

I beg leave to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, written on the 20th ultimo, from which I anticipated to receive at an early date the note which was to form the basis of any action on the part of His Majesty's Government.

I have on two or three occasions requested Mr. MacLeod to remind the Minister for Foreign Affairs that in all probability I should shortly be leaving for England, and that it would be well if I could receive the promised communication before my departure.

His Excellency has invariably stated that the Sultan has not yet signified his approval of the draft note, but that it would be sent to me very shortly. In a private letter dated the 9th instant, which I received yesterday, Mr. MacLeod informs me that Abd-el-Karim Ben Sliman now stated that the Sultan's orders had not been issued yet;

* No. 117.

that the question did not press, and that he could either communicate to me through Mr. MacLeod when I was in England or await my return to Tangier.

This protracted delay indicates, I think, that some influences, native or foreign, probably the former, have intervened to dissuade the Sultan from carrying the project further.

His Majesty, to my mind, has been unwisely advised, if my surmise be correct, as the reforms are urgently needed; and I have intimated to the Foreign Minister that the question is one which primarily concerns Moorish interests; that it was initiated by himself, and though I was, and shall continue to be, ready to assist the Moorish Government as far as I possibly can, I must confess that I regret to notice that proposals emanating from them appear to be lightly abandoned almost as soon as they are formulated, and that it is a little perplexing, in these circumstances, to render any efficient aid. I have added that I have no wish to press any project upon the Sultan, but I gave my advice when it was solicited, and that I had naturally taken for granted that the question had been well considered by the Moorish Government before it had reached the stage at which, apparently, it had now come to an abrupt halt.

If other considerations had subsequently arisen which counselled a postponement of the scheme, I trusted that his Excellency would communicate them frankly and confidentially to me, as he could rest assured that there was no desire to lead the Sultan into any embarrassing position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

Fez, May 20, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that this morning I visited Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Vizier for Foreign Affairs, and he then drafted the note upon the Customs Reform project, referred to in my despatch No. 26 of yesterday, which he proposes to address to you as soon as it receives the Sultan's assent.

The terms were to the effect that the Sultan was desirous of thoroughly re-forming the Customs Administration, and His Majesty considered that this could only be done by placing them under an European skilled in such matters, and of known integrity; that, to avoid giving offence to any of the Powers politically interested in Morocco, His Majesty wished that the European so selected should belong to one of the minor nationalities, such as Belgium, Holland, Denmark, or Sweden, and His Majesty would be glad to have the good offices of the British Government in finding a man of the kind indicated.

If the British Government found a suitable person, the Sultan would then, through you, invite him to Morocco to study the question, and, if His Majesty approved the reforms he would thereafter suggest, his appointment would then be confirmed, and he would proceed to carry them into effect.

The Sultan, further, was desirous that this matter be kept strictly private until it would be ripe for communication to the Powers.

The Vizier still seemed to have some misgivings about not telling the Powers of the project just now, and wondered whether you were remembering some instances of troubles with the Powers during the Court's recent sojourn at Rabat.

I replied that I had no doubt that you were keeping these in view, and that you had concluded that the difficulties which might arise by informing the Powers just now would be serious, but that if the notification were made when the question was settled there would be little or no risk of that kind.

The Vizier said he would send for me when the note would be ready for transmission to you, but, of course, he could not say when that would be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 92. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 14, 1902.

A SHEREEF from Tafilelt, who has on former occasions given me useful information, visited me to-day, having just made a journey from Tafilelt to Figuig and Fez. He left Tafilelt about a month ago and reports that all the tribes there, both Arab and Berber, have buried their internal differences and formed a League under a Sheikh named El Arbi-el-Subahi, a member of an Arab tribe and a man of influence. This League has, according to my informant, renounced allegiance to the Sultan and adopted an independent attitude; and it is noteworthy, if my informant be truthful, that all the Shorfa of Tafilelt have also become members. My informant estimated that the League could put into the field between 30,000 and 40,000 mounted men fairly well armed, but apparently with no plentiful supply of ammunition.

The programme of the League was to remain quiet until after the harvest, which would be gathered in about a month's time, and then make an attack on Igli, where they considered the French had but a weak garrison. They openly declared that they would resist by force any expedition, peaceful or otherwise, which the Sultan might despatch to Tafilelt: and the overtures of the Sultan's Viceroy at Tafilelt, Muley Errashid, to win over Sheikh El-Sabahi by bribes and fair promises had been summarily rejected. The Sultan, my informant stated, had some 1,000 troops at Tafilelt; but they are not a factor which need be seriously considered.

The Tafilelt League had entered into communication with Bu Amama, who at present is in the Ain Shair district, with 400 cavalry and 1,200 infantry, some of the latter being mounted on dromedaries.

Bu Amama had consented to join the League when the suitable moment arrived; and my informant added that all the tribes in the east of Morocco, the Benigild, Ait Yussi, &c., had signified their intention of throwing in their lot with the Tafilelt people.

Bu Amama, so my informant stated, had personally informed him that he had in his possession sealed letters from the Chiefs of several Algerian tribes, pledging themselves to rise against the French so soon as the Tafilelt tribes gave the signal.

Bu Amama further stated that the French were expected shortly to send expeditions to Ain Shair, to Ras-el-Ain, which lies south-west of Oojda and to Tafilelt itself. In short, according to my informant, the whole of the country to the east of Fez down to Tafilelt, were ready to combine against the French; and he personally was convinced after his passage through the districts that the Sultan would be powerless to prevent a general uprising.

Allowing for the usual exaggeration in the reports of Oriental emissaries, there is sufficient in the statements of my informant to give cause for considerable uneasiness, and his information as to the attitude of the Tafilelt tribes agrees with other independent reports which I have received, and which I have had the honour to communicate to your Lordship from time to time.

My informant told me that the Franco-Moorish Frontier Commission had met with an unfriendly reception from the Doui-Menia and other tribes, and had consequently thought it prudent to withdraw. It is a fact that the work of the Commission has been suspended for some time, and I believe that the Moorish Commissioner is still at Algiers.

The Tafilelt tribes have, my informant said, abandoned their allegiance to the Sultan, because they consider that His Majesty has been too conciliatory to the French, and not shown himself able to resist French encroachments, while on the other hand he beguiled his own people with promises and assurances which events have proved he was either unable or unwilling to fulfil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 93.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 17, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Bristow, reporting that one of the prisoners detained on account of the murder of the late Mr. Alcock has made a confession. I regret to observe that the Governor of Tetuan extracted this confession in the first instance by flogging the prisoner, and I have consequently requested Mr. Bristow to inform him that such measures can in nowise be permitted, and that no ill-treatment be inflicted on any prisoner detained on account of a British case. I beg leave to inclose copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Bristow on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Acting Vice-Consul Bristow to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 34.)

Sir,

June 14, 1902.

WITH reference to the murder of Mr. Alcock I have the honour to report that on Monday last I was told that the Governor had received some important information from a prisoner. On Tuesday morning, therefore, I called on him and asked to be allowed to see this man. After examining him for upwards of an hour I elicited the following. His name is Hassan-ben-Ayad Lidnj; he was imprisoned about a fortnight before the murder, being suspected of stealing some cattle; some days before he was imprisoned a Rifi boy, named Mohamed Uld Ali Rifi, *i.e.*, the carpenter's assistant mentioned in Mr. Bewicke's despatch No. 27 of the 12th ultimo, asked him to join him and two others, as they intended to go and kill "the English renegade who was full of money." The names of the boy's two companions are Mohamed Saidi and Mohamed Salhi. The boy, according to Lidnj, stated that they had already been once to Mr. Alcock's garden, but the deceased, on hearing their approach, had come out into the garden with his gun, so they fled. Lidnj went on to state that he had kept the matter to himself, not wishing to be mixed up in the affair, until two days before, when, hearing that the Governor had promised to release some prisoners if either they or their friends would help him to capture the murderer, he had decided to speak, hoping thereby to obtain his freedom.

The Rifi boy had already been arrested; and I asked the Governor to lose no time in arresting Mohamed Saidi and Mohamed Salhi.

I next called the Rifi boy, and, after having him identified by Lidnj, proceeded to examine him, but failed to elicit anything fresh from him, he maintaining his original story as given in Mr. Bewicke's above-mentioned despatch.

On Wednesday I again examined the Rifi boy and also Schaib, the deceased's servant, but elicited nothing of importance.

Last Friday the Vice-Consulate soldier told me that he had heard that the Governor had flogged the Rifi boy that morning and that he had made a confession. I consequently went to the Governor to inquire, and he informed me that he had flogged the boy that morning till he said he would make a confession; accordingly he sent for Adools to take down his statement, but on their arrival he insisted that he had nothing to confess, and had only said that he had to stop the punishment. The Governor then told me that he had caught Saidi and I asked leave to examine him; his statement was to the effect that the Rifi boy and Dbeelan had asked him and Salhi to help in robbing the English renegade, but that he had refused, saying he could not leave his cattle at nights. They afterwards asked him to lend his gun, but he refused.

I next re-examined the Rifi boy, but failing to elicit anything further from him I took my departure; however, on reaching the gate I was recalled by the Governor, as the boy when further pressed by him, said he would make a confession before us. He

then stated (I give his words as nearly as I can remember them): "I killed him; we went, three of us, Dbeelan, Saidi, and I; we met at Liana, and thence we went to his house; we entered by the lower garden, the gate of which was open. Deceased came down the path from his house; we stood in the hedge which divides the lower from the upper garden; Dbeelan and Saidi shot at him; Dbeelan's shot killed him; he, Dbeelan, had a rifle, Saidi a double-barrelled gun; he died at once; we searched him, but found neither his watch nor his bag on him; then we entered the house, but found only 6 or 7 dollars. Dbeelan took deceased's gun; I had no gun, only an iron instrument for cutting wood."

The Governor then sent for two Adools, who took down the boy's statement.

Yesterday I again examined the boy and endeavoured to obtain a complete statement of the case from the beginning, but as he was in a state of great physical and mental exhaustion and continually contradicted himself, I decided it would be better to wait a day or two before continuing examination.

Before leaving I once more impressed on the Governor, especially in view of the Rifi boy's confession, the importance of using renewed efforts for the capture of Dbeelan. He assured me he was doing his utmost.

I have, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to Acting Vice-Consul Bristow.

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Tangier, June 17, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 34 of the 14th instant, informing me that the Rifi boy has made a confession in regard to the murder of the late Mr. Alcock. I much regret to observe that this confession was in the first place extracted from the boy by physical means, and I have to request you to tell the Basha of Tetuan from myself that I cannot permit such means of extorting evidence to be practised in any case in which the British authorities are concerned, and I must insist that no ill-treatment of any description whatever be inflicted on any one who may be detained in custody on account of any British case.

You should request the Governor to use his best endeavours to arrest the men called Dbeelan and also Mohamed Salhi. If the former has absconded to the Riff country, I should like you to ascertain under whose jurisdiction he is supposed to be, so that I may apply to the Moorish Government for orders to the competent Kaid to hand him over.

The Rifi boy and Mohamed Saidi should be kept in separate cells and away from the other prisoners who may be in prison. As there appears to be no evidence against the servants of the deceased, I have no objection to their being released.

I am, &c.

No. 125.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 64. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 86, Confidential, of the 4th instant, inclosing copies of a note which you have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of your reply, relative to the engagement of military instructors for the Moorish army.

I concur with you in thinking that it would be most unfortunate if Sir H. Maclean's position and influence at the Shereefian Court were impaired, and I approve your action in intimating in your communication to Si Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman that it would be of advantage if Sir H. Maclean were consulted in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 126.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 65.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 87 of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of the Regulations which the Diplomatic Body at Tangier have agreed to adopt with regard to the sanitary arrangements of new buildings in the town.

I concur in the expediency of the enforcement of these Regulations for the protection of the public health at Tangier, and I authorize their adoption as far as British subjects are concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 127.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 66.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 25, 1902.

I HAVE received Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 93, of the 17th instant, relative to the murder of Mr. A. Alcock at Tetuan.

I approve the message sent by Sir Arthur to the Basha of Tetuan, through Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Bristowe, protesting against the use of physical means to procure evidence of the murder.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 16, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of the 17th May, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Pearson, relative to the liquor traffic in his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Acting Consul Pearson to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir,

Dar-al-Baida, June 11, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, the result of inquiries made as to the consumption of liquors, distilling, and the import of spirits in this Consular district.

Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos informs me that at Rabat the consumption of alcoholic liquors among the natives is decreasing. Distilling is only practised by a few Jews for their private use, and no increase of imported spirits is to be noticed.

At Dar-al-Baida, I am of opinion that the consumption of alcoholic drinks has increased, and the habit of drinking intoxicants is extending among the natives, though chiefly confined to the labouring class and the sailors and lightermen employed at this port.

The following rough figures will give you some idea of the native consumption of spirits in Dar-al-Baida and the surrounding country for the past year:—

Rum: Imported from Cuba, viâ Canary Islands. 300 barrels.

Alcohol: From Germany. 150 barrels; used for doctoring wines, &c., by local dealers.

Gin: 500 demijohns sold by the glass, and 2,500 bottles or jars, sold at 1 peseta per jar.

Cognac: 1,200 bottles.

Vermouth (Italian): 150 cases; sold at ½-dollar the bottle.

All the above, with the exception of vermouth, are of very poor quality, and correspondingly cheap.

A good deal of vermouth and cognac is sent into the interior for country Kaïds, Governors, &c.; this has been more noticeable during the last two years.

Five per cent. duty is paid on all the above.

The Jews are responsible for most of the distilling in this town, and extract spirit from grapes, figs, and raisins; the latter being imported from Tetuan for the purpose.

The Jews themselves consume most of the spirit locally distilled, which is considerably less potent than that imported from Germany and other countries.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spinney is of opinion that drinking at Mazagan is rather on the increase, but chiefly confined to sailors and the labouring classes. The importation of spirits has increased some 25 per cent. during the last two years, but the bulk is destined for the Marakesh market.

The consumption of spirits at Mazagan and Azimoor amounts to 50 casks a-month. At Mazagan, as at Dar-al-Baida, the Jews do the distilling chiefly for their own consumption.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports that drinking is distinctly increasing at Saffi. The Moors and Jews are frequently seen drunk in the streets. Imports of spirits are gradually increasing, and the duty charged is trifling.

Mr. Vice-Consul Madden reports that at Mogador there is a large increase in the local distilleries, owned chiefly by Jews. Drinking also seems spreading amongst these people.

Mr. Madden attributes the increase of local distilleries and the slight decrease in spirits imported to the poverty of the large Jewish colony in Mogador, who are unable to afford the imported articles.

I am of opinion, generally, that drinking is on the increase at most of the ports in this Consular district, and that the worst offenders are to be found, as a rule, among the sailors, boatmen, and port labourers.

Wines and spirits have been forwarded to the interior in increased quantities during the last two years.

The amount of spirits and alcohol imported increases steadily.

Distilling is practically in the hands of the Jews, who consume the bulk of the spirit locally distilled.

At Mogador the distilleries have increased in the last ten years from six or eight to about thirty at the present time. At other ports the increase is not very noticeable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. PEARSON.

No. 129.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 95. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 18, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in regard to the engagement of a cavalry instructor.

I have acknowledged the receipt of his Excellency's communication, merely adding that I am leaving for England very shortly, and will take the opportunity, during my stay in London, to do what I can to meet his wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Abd-el-Karim Ben Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *June* 12, 1902.

WE have received your kind reply of the 27th Safar last (4th June), regarding the cavalry officer of the rank of Colonel, whom His Serene Majesty requested your Excellency to help him to procure. You state that you will be pleased to attend to this on your arrival in London shortly (D.V.), and that you will arrange the amount of his salary to the best of your ability, as also the amounts of the salaries of the drummer and bugler, but that you are not at present acquainted with the scale of pay, and also desire information as to what is wished in regard to certain other points besides salaries, such as forage, house accommodation, &c. We immediately submitted your letter, in original, to our Lord, who took cognizance of it all, and understood all the points to which you referred. His Majesty ordered me to reply to your Excellency, acknowledging your sincere and cordial friendship and disinterested attention to this and every other wish of His Majesty, of this His Majesty is convinced, and renews his thanks for it, and prays God to assure the results arising from the bonds of friendship uniting the two parties.

With regard to fixing the scale of the salaries, our Lord still relies upon you to arrange them to the best of your ability, reposing confidence in your faithful zeal and knowledge of the conditions of the parties, and with regard to the forage and house accommodation, His Majesty will certainly provide them in addition to the salary. As to what you say of the intelligent friend, Kaïd Maclean, His Serene Majesty took cognizance of it all, and understood its purport, both what is expressed and what is to be inferred, and has ordered me to reply to you that his services during the term of his employment have been as you describe them. Of this His Majesty is convinced, he is not ignorant of it in any way; it accounts for his attention to the affairs in his special department, with which others have nothing to do, and to which he is still attending, more especially owing to your friendly counsels and gracious advice; but His Majesty wishes the Colonel, whom he has asked you to bring, to take charge only of drilling a considerable number of cavalry, and nothing else, so that this body of men may be organized in a special manner, different to the rest of His Majesty's troops at present, and that the arrangement of all matters connected therewith may be in His Majesty's own hands, in consultation with this officer without any intermediary, as we wrote to you before. It is not hidden from your clear discernment that Kaïd Maclean has never been engaged on this special kind of work of organization, but has hitherto only been drilling infantry, not cavalry. Moreover, although in some respects it would be well to consult Kaïd Maclean on this subject, there are other reasons against it, which must also be considered. Therefore His Serene Majesty begs you to be good enough to assist in procuring the said officer in the manner desired of you, and this is expected of your kindness and sincerity of which His Serene Majesty is convinced, as also of the successful results arising therefrom, both now and in the future.

(Signed) ABD-EL-KARIM BEN SLIMAN.

No. 130.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 96.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which the Sultan's deputy has addressed to the Spanish Minister as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, requesting that an officer from the Moorish Customs should be present in the several foreign post-offices when the mail-bags are opened, in order to see that no dutiable articles are passed through.

The British Postmaster assures me that the sealed bags contain nothing but correspondence, newspapers, books, and patterns without value. The parcel-post arrives separately, and all the articles which come by it pass through the Customs and pay the proper duties.

I consulted with my French, German, and Spanish colleagues, who have post-offices here, and we decided to refer the question to our respective Governments. We were all agreed that it would be undesirable to accede to the request of the Sultan's deputy, or to permit any Moorish official to have any handling of postal matter.

At the same time, we thought that perhaps the Postmasters might be instructed, as the German Minister said it is the case in Turkey, to detain any packet which appears to contain jewelry or articles likely to be subject to duty, and to request the addressee to present himself at the post-office, and, if necessary, to pay the duty to the Postmaster, who would then transmit the amonnt to the Customs officials.

I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions on the subject. A verbal message has been sent to the Sultan's deputy, informing him that we have referred the question to our Governments, and that, when replies are received, we will communicate further with him. At the same time, he has been told that, in the meanwhile, no alteration can be made in the mode in which the post-offices deal with foreign mails.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Cid Torres to Señor de Ojeda.

(Après compliments.) *Tanger, le* 12 *Juin*, 1902.

NOUS avons reçu votre réponse datée le 11 Juin à la lettre que nons vous avons adressée au sujet des sacs aux lettres qui arrivent par mer à Tanger, en m'informant que tous les sacs postaux traversent les frontières cachetés, et ne sont ouverts qu'à leur arrivée aux Administrations.

Nous nous sommes rendus compte de ce que vous manifestez en ce qui vous concerne et concerne aussi les honorables Représentants.

Puisque toutes les malles aux lettres finissent leur destination à Tanger et sont transportées dans la ville, et vu que les Oomana sont convaincus que les sacs contiennent des effets susceptibles au paiement des droits de douane, et demandent d'examiner leur contenu, les circonstances exigent qu'un délégué de leur part assiste dans les Administrations des Postes à leur ouverture.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence d'en donner connaissance aux honorables Représentants dont relèvent les susdites Administrations, pour qu'ils ordonnent, ainsi que vous, à leurs Administrateurs de Postes, de reconnaître le délégué des Oomana qui accompagnera les sacs pour examiner leur contenu, et qui, dans le cas qu'il trouverait des effets susceptibles au paiement des droits de douane, les ramasserait les déposant entre les mains des Oomana pour que les propriétaires paient les droits établis.

(Signé) MOHOMMED BEN LARBI TORRES.

No. 131.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 22, 1902.

FROM information I have received from a reliable source at the Court I learn that the delay in the work of the Joint Commissioners delimitating the frontier between Morocco and Algeria has been caused by the French Commissioner claiming to include within the Algerian boundary a tract of country which is not clearly referred to in the original agreement arrived at whilst the late Moorish Mission was at Paris.

Sid Abd-el-Karim Ben Sliman apparently did not explain to my informant what tract of country was in dispute, but told him that the Moorish Commissioner had dispatched certain Moors to the Sultan to furnish His Majesty with full particulars regarding the

difference that had arisen, and to explain his own views as to the course to be pursued, and added that the Commissioner would not return until the frontier question has been settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 132.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 71. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 3, 1902.*

I HAVE received Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 91, Confidential, of the 13th ultimo, relative to the projected reforms in the Customs Administration of Morocco, and I approve the communication made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, as reported in that despatch.

I concur in the view, to which expression was given in Sir A. Nicolson's communication to Sid Abd-el-Karim, that it is not advisable to press the matter at the present time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 133.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 219.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1902.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* relative to a request made by the Deputy of the Sultan of Morocco that an officer of the Moorish Customs may be present in the several foreign post offices when the mail bags are opened, in order to see that no dutiable articles enter the country without payment of duty.

The German Minister at Tangier has, as you will see, informed his colleagues that in the foreign post offices in Turkey any packet which appears to contain articles subject to duty is detained, and the addressee is requested to present himself at the post office and, if necessary, to pay the duty to the postmaster by whom it is transmitted to the Customs' officials.

I request that you will furnish me with a Report showing exactly the course followed in the matter in Turkey, and that you will state whether in practice it is found to be satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 134.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 7, 1902.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that the Sultan granted an official audience on the 30th ultimo to the Consular officers at that place, viz., himself, his French and German colleagues, and their assistants.

They were all presented to His Majesty collectively, and the German Consul made a short speech in Arabic, thanking His Majesty for doing them the honour to receive them, congratulating His Majesty on his arrival at his northern capital, and wishing him a long and prosperous reign.

* No. 130

The Sultan in his reply, which was read by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, after bidding the Consuls welcome, thanked them for their congratulations and good wishes, and expressed the intention of endeavouring to increase the intercourse between his own subjects and those of their nations.

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod further reports that on the 2nd instant the Sultan entertained the Consular officers, the members of the foreign military Missions, the Europeans in his service, and others, at a luncheon given in the garden of one of his Palaces. His Shereefian Majesty was, of course, not himself present, but the guests were received by the Grand Vizier, the Chief Amin, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and for War, and other Court officials, and the utmost cordiality prevailed throughout the entertainment.

This luncheon was given in connection with a series of festivities which had been held at the Palace since the 28th ultimo in honour of the circumcision of several children related to the Sultan.

The ceremony was to have been held some time since, but had been postponed, as His Shereefian Majesty has stated, because he did not wish the rejoicings to take place until the end of the war in South Africa.

This is, I believe, the first occasion on which foreigners have been invited to take part in such festivities at the Court, and the fact is interesting as indicative of the Sultan's desire to mark his esteem for foreigners and his desire to encourage friendly intercourse with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 135.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 11, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the people of the Figuig district appear to be displeased with the conduct of the negotiations with the French regarding the Algerian frontier, and are giving considerable trouble at the Court by making constant complaints on the subject. I am informed that the Moorish Government, on examining the complaints, have, up to the present, always found them groundless; but the Figuig people will not listen to reason, and seem to be doing all in their power to give rise to serious trouble between the Moorish Government and the French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 136.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 17, 1902.*

SID BENASSER GHANNAM has consulted me privately with regard to an application which has been made to him by Mr. Saavedra, Interpreter of the Spanish Legation, on behalf of his brother, for a Concession for the exclusive right of fishing in Moorish waters between Cape Spartel and Laraiche, for a term of thirty years, under the following conditions:—

The Sultan will be paid 1,500 dollars for each net used, and export duty will be leviable on all the salted fish sent out of the country, no duty, of course, being paid on the fish landed for salting. Spanish boats will be used and Spanish subjects will be in charge of them, but only Moors will be employed as sailors; these Moors shall not be in any way under Spanish protection, nor enjoy the privileges accorded to employés of foreigners under Article IX of the Madrid Convention.

Salting operations, &c., will only be carried on at the towns, no buildings being erected on isolated parts of the coasts.

The fishing boats can only communicate with the shore at ports of Tangier and Laraiche; anything being landed elsewhere can be treated as contraband.

Sid Benasser Ghannam informs me that he has communicated this proposal to the Court, observing that whilst in some respects it appears acceptable, there are also objections to it, and that in any case it would not be prudent to grant the Concession for more than two years.

I replied that I should not like to express any decided opinion without thinking the matter over, but that should it be considered advisable that the Government should grant such Concessions, it appeared to me more prudent to publicly invite tenders rather than to accept a private offer in secret.

I offered, however, to ascertain Sir Arthur Nicolson's views on the matter, and Sid Benasser Ghannam said that, even were the reply from the Court favourable to the proposal, he would not proceed further with Mr. Saavedra until he heard from me again on the subject, and that if necessary he would again refer to the Court.

I have not mentioned to Sid Benasser Ghannam that I am reporting the matter to your Lordship, but I should be glad to be favoured with your Lordship's views for my guidance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 137.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 297. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 23, 1902.

THE French Ambassador made some informal remarks to me to-day with reference to the statement which I made in the House of Lords as to the relations of His Majesty's Government with those of France and Italy.

His own opinion was, he said, that people were needlessly disposed to suspect conspiracies amongst the Powers concerned with the shores of the Mediterranean. He did not himself believe that such conspiracies existed.

I said that in my view also there was a disposition to indulge in exaggerated apprehension. As for the relations of France and Italy, I said that many people were convinced that France had designs upon Morocco. I had myself always accepted his Excellency's assurances that the French Government did not harbour any such designs, and that their concern was with the tribes on their south-western frontier, about which he had often spoken to me, and which the French Government no doubt found it necessary to deal with.

M. Cambon replied that I was quite right, and that the Franco-Italian understanding did not touch Morocco. As, however, I had mentioned Morocco, it was only right that he should tell me that he felt some uneasiness as to future developments in that country. The British Government was, he believed, perfectly sincere in its desire to maintain the *status quo*, but there were British subjects who were not equally discreet, and he was in particular alarmed at the position which Kaïd Maclean was acquiring. That officer had now virtually become Commander-in-chief of the Sultan's army, which he was organizing and equipping, and which, after all, could only be intended for use against France.

I replied that the Sultan was constantly taken to task for not sufficiently restraining his own tribes, and that it was therefore scarcely reasonable to object to his placing his army in a condition of greater efficiency.

My information led me to believe that Kaïd Maclean's influence was not a dangerous one, and that if he interfered unduly in the politics of Morocco, I felt sure that Sir Arthur Nicolson would be the first to call our attention to the fact. I did not believe, myself, that Kaïd Maclean interfered in politics.

M. Cambon said that he could not entirely agree with me. His own idea was that it might be desirable that our two Governments should have a frank discussion of the situation. The attitude of the tribes had become extremely threatening of late. It was not enough that we should declare our desire to maintainthe *status quo*. We must both be prepared for eventualities. He apprehended that what we really cared about was Tangier, which we could not afford to allow any other Power to possess. We might easily come to some arrangement with France under which it should be neutralized.

His Excellency went on to say that all that he had said to me represented his own opinions only, but that he proposed to ask M. Delcassé's permission to mention these subjects to me officially at some future time.

I replied that he would find me perfectly ready to discuss them with him in the frankest possible manner.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 138.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 102. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1902.

MR. W. B. HARRIS, an Englishman, just returned from Fez, where he has spent some weeks, and was in constant touch with the Sultan and the various Court officials, has given me an interesting account of the state of parties in the *entourage* of the Sultan.

Mr. Harris states that the animosity between the Grand Vizier, Sid Emfadl Gharnit, and the Minister for War, Kaïd-el-Menebhi, has quite disappeared, these two officials being now on good terms, but that the relations between the latter and Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, are so strained that they go to and return from the Palace by different roads in order to avoid meeting each other on the way, for fear of an encounter between their men.

Sid Emfadl Gharnit, though holding the title of Grand Vizier, has no influence whatever with the Sultan and adopts a policy of self-effacement; he thus avoids incurring the jealousy of the others, who are content that he should continue to hold his position, lest it should be occupied by some other official who would become a more dangerous rival.

Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, on the other hand, is regarded with jealousy and enmity by all, as he is known to be the trusted adviser of the Sultan; indeed, His Shereefian Majesty himself told Mr. Harris that his Minister for Foreign Affairs was "the only stick on which he could lean," as His Majesty considered him competent and faithful, though he came of an old family, amongst whom many had been traitors, the last, his grandfather, having been beheaded at Fez for high treason in the time of His Majesty's grandfather. Kaïd-el-Menebhi is the Sultan's personal friend, with whom His Majesty is on the most intimate and familier terms in his hours of relaxation, but of whose prudence and wisdom he has not a high opinion. He has, therefore, no influence with the Sultan in matters of State. The War Minister has now lost his haughty bearing, and is on good terms with all his colleagues, except Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, who, as the most influential official, is now the most unpopular.

Mr. Harris considers that a young official from Tetuan, named Amin Rakina, who has lately been appointed Chamberlain, is likely to attain considerable influence, as the Sultan has a high opinion of him, and his present office brings him in constant contact with His Majesty.

I have, &c.
[Unsigned.]

No. 139.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 103. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 18, 1902.

I UNDERSTAND from Mr. W. B. Harris, who has just returned from Fez, that a reconciliation has been effected, partly through his instrumentality, between the Wazzom Shereefs and the Moorish Government.

Mr. Harris states that the Shereefs are annoyed with the French authorities for insisting on agricultural taxes being paid by them and their employés, and for not affording them the full extent of support they expected in other matters. They have

therefore been negotiating directly with the Moorish Government regarding the payment of their taxes, which must amount to a considerable sum annually, as they are possessed of numerous farms in many districts of Morocco, in addition to their lands near Wazzom.

It has now apparently been arranged that the taxes on their property will be assessed in the ordinary manner, and receipts given for the amount, but that the Sultan will make an annual voluntary payment to the Sanctuary of an amount roughly approximating to the taxes paid. This payment will, however, be made entirely at the Sultan's own discretion, and can be withheld by him if His Majesty is dissatisfied with the conduct of the Shereefs. Such offerings to the Sanctuary, somewhat analogous to Peter's Pence, are made by all classes of Moors, and have been made by former Sultans.

An understanding has also been come to that, though the Shereefs retain their French protection, questions and differences should, when possible, be settled directly with the Court without the French Legation necessarily intervening.

Mr. Harris is of opinion that improved relations between the Court and the Wazzom Shereefs will be of advantage to the Sultan and strengthen His Majesty's position, whilst the Shereefs will feel less dependent on the French.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 140.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 337.)

Therapia, July 19, 1902.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 219 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that the course followed by British post-offices in Turkey in regard to the treatment of letters, samples, &c., arriving in the mail bags, and thought to contain dutiable articles, is as follows:—

As soon as a packet of this nature is noticed, the addressee is advised of its arrival and given the option of having it returned to the sender or treated as a foreign parcel; in the event of his choosing the latter course, and if he maintains that the contents of the suspected packet are of inconsiderable value, he is allowed to open it in the Postmaster's presence, when, if his statement proves to be correct, the packet is delivered to him. If, however, the packet is found to contain anything of dutiable value, it is resealed, entered on a parcel list and forwarded to the Ottoman Custom-house in Galata, whence it is delivered against presentation of a Custom-house order, a specimen of which is inclosed herewith.* The practice above described has now been in force for thirteen years, and I am given to understand that it has worked most satisfactorily. Mr. Hack, the Acting British Postmaster in Constantinople, informs me that since the year 1893, when several local dealers in precious stones attempted unsuccessfully to use the post-office as the medium for illicitly introducing their wares into the country from Antwerp and other continental cities, no serious attempt to defraud the Turkish Customs has been discovered, and it very rarely happens that the addressees elect to have the suspected packet returned to the sender.

I am informed that the Austrian, German, and French post-offices in Constantinople have adopted similar measures for the prevention of smuggling, and that they have never at any time levied the duty themselves.

In conclusion, I should state that the Ottoman Customs officials are never permitted to be present at the opening of mail-bags in any of the foreign post-offices. Attempts have, it is true, been made from time to time by the Ottoman authorities to seize or control their contents, but they have always been successfully resisted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

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* Not printed.

No. 140*.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 2, 1902.

SULTAN has received news from Tafilelt according to which it appears that two considerable tribes, the Ait Atta and the Ait Kabbash have undertaken to have no dealings with the French and not to molest them. They have also sworn allegiance to His Majesty and promised to help him against any disobedient tribe.

Sultan is advised by Viceroy at Tafilelt that no troops need now be sent to that district.

No. 141.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 104.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July 24, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 23 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that the latest accounts of the Sultan's health are quite satisfactory. His Majesty, acting upon the advice of his English physician, has caused the palace in Old Fez to be completed, and is now inhabiting it. This palace is situated in the healthiest part of the town, whereas the palace in New Fez, where His Majesty was previously residing, is near the marshes, which render that district very feverish.

His Majesty has, I understand, been free from fever since he moved to the new palace.

Malarial fever broke out amongst the troops at Fez, a large percentage amongst them being attacked, but their camps have now been removed from the low-lying ground adjoining the Fez River to the higher ground on the hills, and it is hoped that the health of the troops will be greatly improved thereby.

I understand that the Sultan is considering the advisability of draining the marshes at Fez, which would be a great boon to the inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 142.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July 28, 1902.*

EXAGGERATED reports have recently appeared in certain French and Spanish papers regarding a supposed conflict between Spain and Morocco in connection with the trade of Melilla with the neighbouring districts.

The facts of the case are briefly as follows: the Sultan believing that the revenue derived from the custom-houses was not nearly so great as it should be, appointed new Administrators at all the ports, a few months since, and caused all to be sworn to faithfully discharge the duties of their office.

The new Administrators have entered upon their duties with more zeal than tact, with the result that complaints are numerous at all the ports regarding the exorbitant and arbitrary duties that are demanded and the vexations to which persons dutying goods are subjected. At Melilla it has been the same as at other ports, and the neighbouring tribesmen are so exasperated at their treatment by the Administrators on passing to Melilla and back that they have ceased to send any barley into the town by way of protest.

The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires tells me that all other provisions enter Melilla and that the export trade from Melilla to the interior is not interfered with, and the matter is really of no importance, though he has made a representation on the subject to the Moorish Government suggesting that the Administrators at Melilla be instructed to show more tact and moderation in the discharge of their duties, so as to put an end to a state of affairs that may become more serious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 143.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1902.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 65 of the 21st April last, I have the honour to report that I learnt from the British Vice-Consul at Mogador that another batch of political prisoners have been released from gaol, only 122 prisoners being now left. Mr. Vice-Consul Madden adds that it is considered probable that all political prisoners will be set free sooner or later.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 144.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report the death of the Sultan's uncle, Mulai Ishmael, who has on several occasions held the appointment of Viceroy of Fez. He was always very popular with the people of that city, and was at one time considered a likely candidate for the throne on the death of his brother, Mulai el Hassen. The Prince, however, proved himself a loyal supporter of Mulai Abdelaziz, with whom he has always been on good terms, and His Majesty is, as I am informed, about to marry one of his daughters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 145.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 108. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1902.

FROM recent reports that have reached me it appears that the state of affairs in the Tafilet and neighbouring districts is causing some uneasiness at the Court, the Moorish Government finding itself in a delemma as to the line of action to be adopted towards certain of the tribes, who are now as ill-disposed towards the Sultan as towards the French, being disappointed in their expectations of assistance from His Majesty. The policy of buying over these tribes has been tried, but has proved a signal failure, being interpreted as a sign of weakness. The Government feels that an expedition should be sent to punish them, but they realize that they might thus drive them into the arms of the French, who would also probably further embarrass them by insisting that advantage be taken of the presence of this force to punish other tribes who are faithful to the Sultan, and whom the French accuse of having committed acts of robbery, &c.

It is said that, in the recent Agreement between France and Morocco, it is stipulated that the French should not encroach on the new frontier, but that the Sultan should maintain order on his side—an obligation which, as the French know, His Majesty is unable to fulfil.

In the meantime, the French are apparently making no forward movement, but are engaged in putting into order their new territories. Their policy would seem to be to do all in their power to propitiate the tribes by treating them well, providing them with good markets, and paying comparatively high wages for labour. The tribesmen cannot but compare their lot under the French with what it was before their advent, and the object-lesson will not be lost on their neighbours also, so that when the newly-acquired territories are in order and the French make their next move, for which an excuse can at all times be readily found, the opposition offered will not be very serious, and will become still less so at each successive step.

This, I am informed, is believed to be the policy of the French by intelligent people in the Tafilet district, as well as at the Court, and the difficulty of counteracting it is realized, for the Sultan is aware of his powerlessness to oppose by force the French advance, and, under present circumstances, it is difficult to win the respect and confidence of the tribes, who, in their ignorance of the comparative strength of France and Morocco, regard His Majesty's inaction as cowardice or treachery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 146.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 29, 1902.

SID BENASSER GHANNAM has informed me that the Sultan has appointed a Commission of Moorish experts to consult with him and prepare plans and estimates for providing Tangier with a proper water supply. The work is to be undertaken by the Administrators of the Mosque Funds, to whom the Sultan will advance such amount as may be required. Water will be supplied gratis to the Mosques, the public baths, and the street fountains, but rates will be levied on water laid on to private houses.

The Moorish Government has for many years past been urged to attend to the pressing need of this town for a proper water supply, and on several occasions during the reign of the late Sultan, as well as more recently, applications for concessions have been made and schemes submitted for supplying this want, but hitherto without success. The action now taken by the Sultan is another instance of His Majesty's more progressive tendencies and of his desire to introduce reforms and improvements into this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 76.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 5, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 101, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, relative to the application which has been made to Sid Benasser Ghannam by M. Saavedra, of the Spanish Legation, on behalf of his brother, for a Concession for the exclusive right of fishing in Moorish waters between Cape Spartel and Laraichi for a term of thirty years under certain conditions.

I do not consider that it would be prudent on the part of the Moorish Government to grant this Concession. It would create a novel and inconvenient precedent to concede to a foreign Company or individual a monopoly of fishing in Moorish waters. I am informed that there are a considerable number of Moorish, Portuguese and Spanish boats employed in fishing on the coast in question, and the proposed monopoly would exclude the crews of the two former nationalities from continuing their avocations. This would lead to friction and disturbances, and the Moorish Government having no means of policing their own waters, the monopoly in all probability would be continually infringed, with the result that there would be claims and possible intervention on the part of the Spaniards.

In these circumstances, the Sultan would, I think, be ill-advised to grant a fishing monopoly to any Power, and you might intimate this to Sid Benasser Ghannam. The Moorish Government might, however, express their willingness to discuss the question of allowing the Spaniards, as well as any others who may make similar applications, to establish drying and salting places at Laraichi or Tangier under certain conditions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 77.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1902.

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 96 of the 17th June last, I transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* relative to the system pursued in British post offices in Turkey with regard to the treatment of letters and packets thought to contain dutiable articles.

You should confer with the Representatives of the Powers having post offices at Tangier as to the expediency of following in Morocco the course pursued at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 149.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 316 A. Very Confidential.)

Foreign Office, August 6, 1902.

Sir,

I HAD a long and interesting conversation to-day with the French Ambassador upon the subject of the relations of our two countries in Siam and Morocco.

M. Cambon told me that since our last meeting he had had an interview with M. Delcassé, whose ideas he was now authorized to explain to me. They were as follows:—

The French Government were "partisans du *status quo* partout," and conceived that in this respect they did not differ from us. They had a colonial dominion amply sufficient not only for their present wants, but for their wants for generations to come. They had passed out of the period of expansion and had no wish to add to their responsibilities by further acquisitions. The colonial policy of France was therefore essentially conservative, and in the pursuit of such a policy M. Delcassé believed that it would be possible for them to move in accordance with us ("marcher d'accord avec vous").

This seemed to him all the easier because we were not really competitors. The French did not produce the same commodities as we did and they were therefore not rivals of ours in the markets of the world as were the United States and Germany. All that France therefore desired was to ensure the security of what she already possessed.

So far as M. Delcassé could see there were only two points at which her position was insecure, viz., Siam and Morocco.

In the case of Morocco, France had a frontier of considerable length along which she came into contact with turbulent neighbours against whom she was bound to protect herself. Nor could she allow any "influence extérieure" to establish itself in such a manner as to prevent her from doing this effectually.

In the case of Siam France was in the same position, with this difference, that England also had an extensive frontier co-terminous with that of Siam on the side of Burmah and in the Malay Peninsula. France and England had, moreover, concluded, with regard to Siam, the Agreement of 1896, under which each of us had recognized that the other possessed a sphere of influence in Siamese territory.

M. Delcassé was awaiting the arrival of Phya Sri Sahadeb, who was, he understood, about to visit Paris and London for the purpose of discussing important questions with the two Governments.

M. Delcassé intended to receive him in the most conciliatory manner, and to spare no efforts in order to dispose of the somewhat trivial questions which had arisen during the last few years between the French and Siamese Governments.

I asked his Excellency whether he had not heard that Phya Sri Sahadeb was to visit Berlin.

* No. 140.

M. Cambon replied that he believed this to be true, but that in his opinion the matters which concerned France and England in connection with Siam did not concern Germany.

The duty of the two Powers was to observe the Agreement of 1896; there was, as he had already told me, no need whatever for any rivalry between us, and it seemed to him that it was our business so far as possible to protect Siam against the intervention of Germany.

In the view of the French Government the Agreement of 1896, if carried out in accordance with its obvious intention, was sufficient, and he saw no reason for extending its scope, or for converting "the zone of influence" into "a zone of occupation." If a good understanding were maintained between our two Governments, things might well be left as they were in this respect, for the present at all events.

Returning to Morocco, his Excellency repeated what he had said to me on a previous occasion as to the alleged aspirations of some of the Englishmen who were in the employment of the Sultan. He had no doubt that designs were attributed to them which they did not really harbour, but there was a considerable risk that too energetic officers might, by the advice which they gave to the Sultan, encourage him to adopt a policy which might drive him into conflict with France, and thereby precipitate action on the part of the French Government. Their desire was, however, that the question of Morocco should not pass into the acute stage. Nevertheless, M. Delcassé thought that it would be extremely desirable that the two Governments should frankly discuss the action which they might be constrained to adopt in the event of Morocco passing "into liquidation." He did not think that there would be any difficulty in providing even for that contingency, and we should do well to come to an understanding in advance. Spain would have to be reckoned with. She occupied certain points upon the coast and would have to be given a sufficient allowance of hinterland. Tangier could not, he said, be allowed to pass into the hands of any European Power—certainly not into the hands of Great Britain or Spain, either of which Powers might then seal the western entrance of the Mediterranean. The best solution would be to make Tangier an international and open port. Beyond the Spanish line France would expect to exercise exclusive influence. Great Britain, M. Delcassé imagined, had no interests in those regions.

I told M. Cambon that I had listened to his statement with great interest, and that I was able at once to express my concurrence with some of the propositions which M. Delcassé had authorized him to advance.

I could, for example, say, without hesitation, that we, too, were in favour of maintaining the *status quo*, and that our desire was rather to consolidate our colonial possessions than to add largely to their area.

I was also inclined to agree with him in believing that the Agreement of 1896 left matters in a somewhat vague and therefore, perhaps, dangerous condition.

I had noticed that M. Cambon had spoken of that Agreement as assigning to each of the two Powers a "zone of influence." I did not think that any such expression was to be found in the Agreement. It was quite true that it established a distinction between the status of the central portion of Siam and that of those parts of the Siamese Kingdom which lay outside the Menam Valley. But we had never, so far as I was aware, given one another a free hand within the outer portions of the kingdom.

I then questioned his Excellency in some detail as to M. Delcassé's ideas of the form which French influence might be allowed to take in the proposed French sphere, and I elicited from him that what he meant was that within that sphere—

1. The French Government should have the right of taking whatever steps might be necessary for police purposes, these districts being, as he said to me, at present without any police arrangements at all.

2. France would expect to be allowed to make her own arrangements with the Siamese as to the protection of French Colonial subjects resident in Siamese territory.

3. All railway construction would naturally fall to France (I reminded his Excellency that the principal Siamese railway—that from Bangkok to Korat—had its terminus well within the French sphere).

4. France would expect priority in regard to mining and other Concessions; and

5. No questions would be raised by us as to the appointment of French officials in the French sphere.

On the other hand, the country would still remain under the Siamese Government, which would, of course, enjoy any revenues which it might produce.

Mutatis mutandis, the same arrangements would hold good as regards British

influence within the British sphere, which would comprise Siamese possessions outside the Menam Valley on the western side of Siam, and the Malay Peninsula.

As to Morocco, I told his Excellency that I regarded with the greatest apprehension the idea of provoking an international controversy with regard to the future of that country; as he must be aware France and England were by no means the only Powers concerned in Morocco. Italy, Spain, and Germany had all of them at one time or another manifested an interest in its affairs. Any attempt to deal prematurely with the "liquidation" of Morocco would, in my opinion, be sure to lead to serious complications.

His Excellency did not dispute the force of this objection, but said that there could at any rate be no harm in discussing these eventualities in good time.

As to the interest of other Powers, he dwelt at some length upon the failure of Spain and of Germany to establish any hold upon the country. Germany had made a determined attempt in 1885, when M. Testa had been sent on a mission to Morocco, and had attempted to obtain the concession of a German post on the sea-board, and to bring about a combination between the Mahommedans of Morocco and those of Turkey. The attempt had failed egregiously, and Germany was at present not to the front there or elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

I noticed that his Excellency did not take up my observation as to the interest of Italy in Morocco, although I had spoken of it rather pointedly.

Before leaving the subject of Morocco, I told M. Cambon that I felt sure that the French Government did not give us sufficient credit for the absolute sincerity of our conduct with the Sultan. We had created no difficulties for the French Government in their dealings with the tribes, nor did I believe for an instant that Kaïd Maclean or any other officials in the employ of the Moorish Government indulged in intrigues against the French. As for His Majesty's Government, I could sum up the advice which we had lately tendered to the Sultan by saying that what we had most enjoined upon him was that he should not get into debt, and that he should keep his prisons cleaner.

In conclusion, I said that it was obviously impossible for me to make an official reply to so important a communication without consulting my colleagues; but I promised his Excellency that I would at once repeat to them the substance of our conversation. I added, however, that we were on the eve of the holidays, and I feared that I might not be able to say anything more to him on the subject for some weeks to come.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 150.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 2, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 108 of the 28th ultimo reporting the uneasiness felt at the Moorish Court at the attitude of the tribes in the Tafilet district, I have now received a letter from Fez informing me that very satisfactory news had just reached the Sultan from Tafilet. His Majesty told my informant that the whole of the Ait Atta and Ait Abbash tribes had taken an oath of allegiance to His Majesty and had sworn to obey His Majesty's orders not to molest the French, with whom, however, they would have no traffic. They had further undertaken to unite with the loyal tribes in punishing any tribe disobeying His Majesty's orders.

The Sultan was much relieved at the news as His Majesty said that the Ait Abbash tribe had given much trouble to the French, whereas now they would remain quiet. I have been unable to identify this tribe, which my informant describes as a powerful one, but think it is probably the same as that referred to as Ait Kharabash in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 111 of the 14th August, 1901.

The Sultan's Viceroy reports that these two powerful tribes having sworn allegiance to His Majesty all the other tribes will follow their example so there is no further necessity for His Majesty to send an expedition to that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 151.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 5, 1902.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 93 of the 17th June, I regret to report that no further progress has been made in regard to the murder of Mr. Alcock. The man, Dbeelan, who is said to have been one of the murderers, has not yet been arrested, notwithstanding the orders I have obtained from Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to the Governor of Tetuan, who, it appears, has but nominal authority in the district to which the accused has fled.

As it is possible that the Commander of the Shereefian troops, operating amongst the neighbouring tribes, might be able to effect Dbeelan's arrest, I have addressed a note to Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, urging the necessity of his being arrested without further delay, and requesting that the necessary orders be given.

I have also suggested that, unless there are grounds for suspecting them of complicity in the murder, the servants of the deceased should be set at liberty, for they are still detained in prison, notwithstanding that Sir Arthur Nicolson caused the Basha of Tetuan to be informed last June that he had no objection to their release.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 152.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 79.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 106 of the 28th ultimo, reporting that a further number of political prisoners have been released from the prison at Mogador.

I request that you will express to the Moorish Government the satisfaction with which His Majesty's Government have heard of this measure of clemency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 153.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 18.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 7, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan has appointed a Commission consisting of two Moorish engineers and four master-masons, to prepare plans and estimates for the erection of bridges over the rivers on the principal trade-routes in Morocco, the bridges to be of masonry, and not of iron.

The Commissioners have already arrived at Tangier, having examined the road between Fez and this place, and they are about to proceed along the coast-road to Azamoor and thence to Marakesh, returning by the direct road from that city to Dar-al-Baida, and thence to Mequinez and Fez.

These roads would require nine large bridges besides a number of smaller ones, which would involve a considerable total outlay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 154.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 13, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 22nd June, regarding the delimitation of the frontier between Morocco and Algeria, I understand that the official sent to Fez by the Moorish Commissioner, to solicit instructions, is now on his way back to join the Commissioner at Algiers. It is not expected, however, that the Commission will return to the frontier to resume its labours on the spot until the end of the hot season.

In the meantime the tribes on the frontier are reported to be keeping quiet. News has been received at the Court confirming the report of an attack upon a French convoy, the tribe that made the raid being the Aït Habbash.

The affair, however, was not very serious; and this tribe has now—as reported in my despatch No. 111 of the 2nd instant—engaged not to further molest the French. The Aït Abbash—or Aït Habbash—is, I am informed, a powerful section of the great Aït Atta tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 155.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 118.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 18, 1902.

THE roads between Fez and Sefroo have recently been rendered unsafe by the rebellion of the greater portion of the Ait Yusi tribe against their Governor Kaïd Omar, a man of considerable power and influence. During the Kaïd's absence with the Sultan at Fez the rebels attacked and obtained possession of his castle at Anjil, carrying off his women.

The Sultan placed a body of soldiers at the disposal of Kaïd Omar and instructed him to restore order in his district and make the country safe, but according to the latest accounts the Kaïd has not as yet met with much success, the rebels being armed with Winchester rifles, which he himself supplied to them some years since, when they were assisting him to repress a revolt in a different district.

Such revolts are common amongst the tribes, and are generally of merely local importance, but in the present instance it has attracted more attention owing to the proximity of Ait Yusi to Fez, where the Sultan is at present residing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 156.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 308. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 25, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 316A, of the 6th instant, reached me at Paris on the 16th instant, and I have naturally read with extreme interest the record of your conversation with M. Cambon upon the subject of the relations of Great Britain and France respectively with Siam and Morocco.

I have so frequently had occasion to lay stress upon M. Delcassé's excessive reserve in discussing with me any but trivial routine questions—a reserve which he exercises, as far as I am assured by my colleagues, towards all the Heads of Foreign Missions in Paris except, perhaps, the Russian Ambassador—that your Lordship will understand that it is quite a novelty to me to hear from any source whatever his views on momentous questions of foreign policy. I confess, however, that while I am bound to believe in the accuracy of M. Cambon's presentment of his Chief's ideas,

communicated to him at a special interview *ad hoc*, I should never have anticipated that M. Delcassé would have gone to the length represented by the French Ambassador of authorizing the latter to propose to His Majesty's Government either the prospective liquidation of Morocco or, in Siam, an arrangement which, under the device of spheres of influence, is none the less, as it seems to me, a practical partition of the country. For such a professed adherent of the principle of the maintenance of the *status quo* as applicable to all delicate territorial questions to sanction the immediate and radical operation which the proposed solution would necessitate, is certainly a step which I should never have thought that M. Delcassé would decide upon taking; although I have not the slightest difficulty in believing that to a man of M. Cambon's temperament and ambition, such an authorization from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs would not only be eagerly seized upon, but would lose nothing at his hands in the exposition of its scope and importance.

I am myself quite incompetent to form any judgment as to the practicability of carrying out, with advantage to British interests, the arrangements sketched out by M. Cambon in regard to the future situation of Siam, and were I, in fact, so competent it would not be my business to offer my own opinions to your Lordship, who has exceptional knowledge and experience of the position of affairs in the region in question. I have no doubt that M. Delcassé and the present Government are quite honest in their declaration as to the actual sufficiency of the colonial possessions of France; but whether the process of nibbling at Siam will tend to appease or to stimulate the appetite of future French Governments for such still tempting remnants of the Siamese Kingdom as M. Cambon proposes to leave uncarved for the moment, is a problem which I doubt his own power of deciding satisfactorily.

I trust that I may, without disrespect, express my entire agreement with your Lordship as to the inherent danger of provoking an international controversy over the future of Morocco at this moment. The one question upon which it is notorious that M. Delcassé has pronounced himself with vigour is that of the exceptional and preponderating interests of France in that country. But it is surely vain to suppose that the future of Morocco can be settled between the two Great Western European Powers exclusively, or that even any discussion on the subject can be profitably carried on without the participation of those other Powers whose interests (however inferior they may be) cannot be ignored in any final settlement.

No one can be more desirous than I am of seeing the relations between Great Britain and France rendered progressively more secure by the gradual disappearance, by amicable arrangement, of all questions causing irritation at the present, or likely to stir up difficulties in the future. And I am confident that for many reasons there can be no British Statesman better situated than your Lordship for profiting by any friendly disposition which France may show for the furtherance of this object. But I have reason for believing that, as far as the Siamese question is concerned, the "ideas" sketched out by M. Cambon have not been so carefully kept a secret that they are not absolutely unknown to some of my diplomatic co"-agues at Paris; and if this is the case with regard to a question which for most of the Great European Powers is of comparatively minor importance, it is impossible to believe that secrecy can be preserved for any length of time if the question of Morocco—one which affects in a greater or less degree the vital interests of every Continental Power—becomes the subject of negotiation between the Government of His Majesty and that of the Republic. There is a notorious tendency to leakage in all the Departments of the French Administration; and there are very evident reasons for which it would be far more difficult for this Government to prevent such leakage in matters in which they may happen to be dealing with Great Britain than would be the case where the other party concerned were one of the Continental Powers of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 157.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 121.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1902.

IN my despatch No. 119 of the 4th September, 1900, I had the honour to report a controversy that had arisen between M. de Calamerio, the Brazilian Consul, and the

Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, who refused to recognise him in that capacity, or to admit that Moorish subjects could claim exemption from the jurisdiction of the local authorities on the grounds of having been naturalized in Brazil, or being under the protection of that country.

Since that time M. de Calamerio has been in the same anomalous position, for though he has made representations to his Government, and has himself visited Brazil, his Government has apparently taken no steps to obtain his recognition by the Moorish Government.

The controversy between himself and Sid Hadj Mohamed Torres has lately entered into a more acute phase in connection with a lawsuit, to which a native Jew—Mr. Nahmiash—who was naturalised in Brazil in the year 1872, was a party.

It appears that Mr. Nahmiash refused to obey the orders he had received to remove a certain wall he had commenced to erect, and Sid Torres accordingly ordered his imprisonment until he should comply. M. de Calamerio called upon Sid Torres, to protest against the imprisonment of a naturalised Brazilian citizen; but Sid Torres remained firm, pointing out that in Morocco Mr. Nahmiash is a Moorish subject—for Brazil was not a signatory of the Madrid Convention. If Mr. Nahmiash wished to be a Brazilian he could leave this country, but so long as he remained here he would be under the jurisdiction of the Moorish authorities. Finally, Mr. Nahmiash obtained his release by signing an undertaking to remove the wall.

M. de Calamerio has written to the Italian Minister, as Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, protesting against the action of Sid Torres in arresting Mr. Nahmiash—whom he styles a major of the Brazilian National Guard—and who, he states, was bearing on his person the Brazilian flag at the time of the arrest—the action of the Moorish authorities thus constituting an outrage on that flag. He communicates copy of a note he had addressed to Sid Torres, demanding the immediate release of Mr. Nahmiash, reserving the right to fix the amount of an indemnity to be demanded, and to adopt such measures as may be necessary. In making this communication to the Doyen, M. de Calamerio asks for his support.

The Italian Minister confined himself to communicating M. de Calamerio's letter to the Foreign Representatives.

I understand that the Moorish authorities deny that any flag was visible on Mr. Nahmiash's person at the time of his arrest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 158.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 25 A.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 2, 1902.

MEQUINEZ has been attacked by some revolted tribes in its neighbourhood; the Governor of the town is reported to have been defeated by the rebels, and the gates of the town have had to be closed. It is rumoured that the rebels wish to replace the Sultan by Mulai Mahomed, his elder brother, who has been confined to his house at Mequinez for some years. I have not yet received any reliable information. Troops, with Maxims, have been sent from Fez.

No. 159.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 4, 1902.

I HAVE received a call from Ghannam, who wished to consult me secretly. Moorish Government have asked his advice on a proposal, advanced by the French, to establish custom-houses on the South-West Algerian frontier, now being delimitated, through which a lower scale of duties on exports and imports shall be charged. His opinion is that such duties should be higher than the ordinary ones. I said that they should certainly not be lower than at the ports, but that the French probably would not accept them higher. I advanced no views on the general question. Moorish Government appear to be considering the matter.

No. 160.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 6, 1902.

MY telegram No. 25 of the 2nd instant.

It appears that the disturbance at Mequinez is subsiding, but, as the couriers are being robbed, authentic information is difficult to obtain.

161.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1902.

CUSTOM houses on Algerian frontier.

With reference to your telegram No. 26 of the 4th September, you should endeavour to ascertain whether negotiations are being conducted by Foreign Minister at Fez, through French Consul there, or between Ghannam and French Legation at Tangier; also whether Ghannam consulted you under instructions from his Government or on his own initiative.

No. 162.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 11, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 15 of the 10th instant.

Ghannam does not wish his Government to know that he consulted me as he did so on his own initiative.

In reply to my questions Ghannam now informs me that Ben Sliman, when at Paris, agreed to the principle of the establishment of custom-houses, but he arranged nothing then as to rates of duties. It was through Gabbas that the French put forward their present proposal for a special Tariff.

No. 163

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 5th ultimo regarding the murder of the late Mr. Alcock at Tetuan, I have the honour to report that I have received a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Bristow informing me that the Basha had set at liberty the servants of the late Mr. Alcock, against whom no evidence of complicity in the murder had been adduced.

I beg to inclose herewith translation of a letter I have received from Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres acquainting me with the substance of the report of the official directed by the Moorish Government to make a secret investigation. This report discloses nothing new, but merely repeats a rumour that the late Mr. Alcock had caused the death of a native woman by administering to her some noxious drug, and suggests that he was murdered by her relations to avenge her death. Sid Torres adds that the Governor of Tetuan had reported the confession made by Mohammed-ben-Ali-el-Khateeb, and that there were strong grounds for suspicion against Mohammed-el-Saidi and Dbeelan. The particulars of this confession were reported to your Lordship in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 93 of the 17th June.

Not having received any reply from Sid Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman to my letter to him of the 5th ultimo, and no more energetic steps having apparently been taken to procure the arrest of Dbeelan, I have addressed him a further letter on the subject, again urging that he be arrested without delay. I took the opportunity of referring to the secret report

communicated by Sid Torres, and pointed out that the deceased had not caused the death of the Moorish woman, and that vengeance did not appear to be the motive of the crime. I beg leave to inclose translation of my letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

Sid Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 28 *Jumadi*, 1320 (*September* 2, 1902).

I HAVE received a Shereefian letter stating that the person appointed by the Makhzen to investigate the case of the foreigner Alcock, murdered at Tetuan, and to discover the reason of the murder, has reported that he has spared no effort in inquiring, and has found that the said foreigner engaged in immoral practices with a woman there among others; he gave her medicine to procure an abortion, of which she died, and that the news spread that her family had murdered him to avenge her and then fled. Also that the Governor had done his utmost in the matter, and had arrested those against whom there was the slightest suspicion. The Governor also reports that suspicion is strongest against Hamed-el-Haik Dbeelan, Mohammed-ben-Ali-el-Khateeb, and Mohammed-es-Saidi, of whom he has arrested the two last, the former of which has confessed to the murder, but the other denies it. He adds that he is still seeking vigorously for Dbeelan, who has escaped.

I inform your Excellency of what has been disclosed in the matter, and what has happened in it, in conformity with the Shereefian instructions sent to me, for your information. May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBZ TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

Mr. White to Ben Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, September* 3, 1902 (29 *Jumadi*, 1320).

I WROTE to your Excellency on the 5th August regarding the Englishman Mr. Alcock, murdered at Tetuan, and I requested that energetic steps be taken for the arrest of Hamed-el-Haik Dbeelan, who is charged with being one of his murderers. I have not yet received any reply from your Excellency to this letter, but I have just received a communication from Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres informing me that the person appointed by the Makhzen to investigate the case has reported that the deceased British subject had given some medicine to a woman to procure abortion and that she had died of the effects, and that it was stated that her family had murdered him and fled; and further that the Governor had reported that suspicion was strongest against Mohammed-el-Haik Dbeelan, Mohammed-ben-Ali-el-Khateeb, and Mohammed-es-Saidi, of whom the two latter are in prison, Mohammed-ben-Ali-el-Khateeb having confessed the crime.

I beg to point out to your Excellency that the fact of the three persons who, there is every reason to believe, were the murderers are in no way connected with the deceased woman is sufficient in itself to show that the murder was not in revenge for her death. Moreover, I am assured by the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan that the report itself is absolutely untrue.

So far as I can hear, no effective steps have yet been taken for the arrest of Dbeelan whose whereabouts are known and who should have been arrested at Tetuan long since, had it not been for the Governor's negligence. I have therefore to renew my request that energetic steps be taken in the matter in order that he may be arrested without further delay.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 164.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 123. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1902.

SID BENASSER GHANNAM called upon me this morning and stated that he had received a letter from the Shereefian Court informing him that the French Government are anxious to enter into an arrangement with the Moorish Government for the establishment of a certain number of custom-houses along the whole line of frontier between Morocco and Algeria, and had proposed that a special tariff be applied at these custom-houses, so that goods imported and exported by the land frontier should pay lower duties than those levied at the custom-houses at the sea ports. One of the arguments put forward in support of this proposal was that goods would certainly be smuggled across the frontier if there were no custom-houses, or, even though there were, if the duties levied at them were not small, and that it would be more advantageous to the Moorish Treasury to receive some revenue from this source than none at all.

Sid Benasser Ghannam stated that the Court had merely asked for his opinion, and had not instructed him to consult me, but he desired, before replying, to know my views for his own guidance, begging me at the same time to regard the matter as strictly secret, as he did not wish it to be known even at the Court that he had spoken to me on the subject. It was merely on the question of the tariff that my opinion was asked, and I confined myself to expressing the personal opinion that if such custom-houses were established, the duties levied at them should be the same as at the ports. Sid Ghannam replied that those were also his views, except that he would prefer that higher duties should be levied on the land frontier than at the ports. I observed that the French would not be likely to agree to a proposition of that nature.

I inquired whether the question of the establishment of these custom-houses had been accepted in principle by the Moorish Government, and whether their number and positions had been settled. Sid Ghannam declared that the matter had gone no further at present than that the proposal had been made by the French Government and was under consideration at the Shereefian Court; no special situations had been mentioned for the Custom-houses, but he supposed that they would not be numerous and would be placed at intervals along the whole frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 165.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 8, 1902.

SOMEWHAT alarming rumours were current at Tangier a few days since as to the state of affairs at Mequinez, private letters having been received from that town reporting that the neighbouring Berber tribes had revolted and attacked the town, looted the market, and penetrated into the Jewry, and that the declared object of the rebels was to place the Sultan's brother, Mulai Mahomed, upon the throne. This Prince, who was a pretender to the throne on the death of the late Sultan, was long kept a close prisoner at Marakesh, but was recently removed to Mequinez, where he lives with his family in his own house, but under strict watch, and practically in confinement.

From Fez I learnt that the Court appeared much perturbed at the news from Mequinez, orders having been given in the night for the immediate dispatch of troops, with Maxims, to the assistance of the Governor of Mequinez, and subsequently Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean was instructed to mount other Maxim guns that had not yet been unpacked, and load two belts of cartridges for each gun. Very exaggerated rumours were current at Fez, it being reported that the rising at Mequinez was in connection with a conspiracy to proclaim Mulai Mahomed Sultan, to which many of the highest Court officials were privy.

It is difficult, for the present, to be certain as to the real cause of the revolt, or even as to the true position of affairs, as couriers are being stopped and robbed of

their letters, but it would appear, from the most recent news that has reached me from Fez, that there has been no more fighting, and that the danger is practically at an end, though I doubt that the situation is as yet quite so satisfactory as I understand the Court officials affect to believe.

Amongst the various reports as to the cause of the rising, the most probable, as it appears to me, is a grievance against the Governor of Mequinez, and a general state of effervescence caused by exaggerated rumours as to the Sultan's foreign tendencies and supposed intention to introduce railways and levy extra taxes, for some tribes are opposed to the taxation reform scheme, supposing that the new taxes are to be levied in addition to those hitherto levied. The Sultan's action in having a new road surveyed and marked out between Fez and Mequinez, to enable him to travel in a motor car, has given rise to the supposition that a railway was to be laid between those two towns, and though the idea was apparently received with satisfaction by the inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood, the Berber tribes might be expected to take alarm.

The Sultan has given orders for his tent to be pitched, and has instructed the various Governors to collect their men and come to Fez to join an expedition. From these preparations it has been supposed that His Majesty intends to return to Mequinez. It is more probable, however, that the Sultan will make a short campaign amongst the unruly tribes in the north, and return to Fez for the winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 166.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September 10, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122 of the 3rd instant, regarding the murder of Mr. Alcock, I have the honour to report that I have now received a letter from Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman in reply to that I had addressed him. His Excellency states that the Sultan has issued orders to the Governor of Tetuan to take every possible step to find and arrest Dbeelan, and had also ordered the release of the servants.

I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke to ascertain from the Governor of Tetuan whether the orders have reached him, and to impress upon that functionary the necessity of carrying them out without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 167.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 23, 1902.*

SIR A. NICOLSON has received private information that a report has reached the Sultan that British and French Governments are negotiating for the establishment of a French Protectorate over Morocco, and that His Majesty is much perturbed by it.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez should be authorized to contradict in the most positive terms any such report.

No. 168.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.

I SAW Kaid Sir H. Maclean this afternoon, and he gave me the inclosed translations:—

1. Of a letter from the Sultan to the King.
2. Of a letter from the Moorish Foreign Minister to myself.

Kaïd Maclean imformed me that the Sultan is greatly disturbed at the reports which

had reached him of the alleged understanding between Great Britain and France for the establishment of a French Protectorate over Morocco. Kaïd Maclean stated that he had been instructed by the Sultan to solicit an audience of the King, and to ascertain whether there was any truth or not in the reports. In the event of the reports being quite unfounded, he was immediately to inform the Sultan. Otherwise, he was to proceed to Berlin and deliver to the German Emperor a letter with which he had also been intrusted by the Sultan.

Should the reports above alluded to be without foundation, he was to beg for the King's advice whether the letter to the German Emperor should or should not be delivered. This was a point which the Sultan wished to leave to the King to decide.

I told Kaïd Maclean that a telegram had been dispatched to Tangier authorizing Mr. White to give the most positive contradiction through the Vice-Consul at Fez to the reports which had been communicated to the Sultan. I added that, in the circumstances, I was personally of opinion that it would be well to abstain from delivering the Sultan's letter to the German Emperor.

Kaïd Maclean added that the Sultan was most anxious to retain the goodwill and friendship of the King and of the British Government; that, in fact, His Majesty was desirous of placing himself entirely under their protection and guidance. There were several other less pressing questions on which Kaïd Maclean had been instructed to speak, but these may be left for later consideration.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

September 24, 1902.

Annex 1.

Sultan of Morocco to the King.

(Translation.)

IN the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate.

And there is no power nor strength save in God the High, the Mighty.

From the Slave of God the Helper, the Defender, the Commander of the Faithful, Son of the Commander of the Faithful, &c.

(Seal of Moulai Abdel Aziz.)

To the dearest friend who is renowed for his true insight into matters of regulations and solid organizations and for his incomparable and unique glories, and for the grandeur of the exalted Government, whose fame is celebrated in all parts, His Majesty the King of Great Britain the Glorious, Emperor of India and other respected Colonies, who guards the friendship of his friends in private and public, the sincere good counsellor King Edward, by the grace of God.

After praising God the Highest of the High and extolling your friendly Majesty as you have merited and still merit: We still guard your friendship of which there is no doubt or uncertainty, and we are convinced of the sincerity of your friendship, which is inherited from your ancestors and especially from our friend your mother, whose memory will not be forgotten though years pass, and we have no doubt of your concern for the maintenance of the strength of those bonds, and to reveal the results—which will give pleasure to the ears and eyes. But reports have reached us lately, published in trustworthy newspapers and on the tongues of men as a fact and a certainty, that the French Government was doing its utmost with the help of another Government to urge our friend, the exalted British Government, to consent to avert its eyes from and not interfere with it in taking possession of this Maghrebin Empire, as a compensation for the cession to the British Government of certain places and the removal of contention about them; and that the British Government had done that which would signify its consent and agreement to the French Government in this.

We cannot imagine this can be, and are very surprised at this contradiction of the friendship inherited from our ancestors since centuries, and also because it is opposed to what our first Envoy heard verbally from your Majesty last year, and to what our second Envoy heard from your Majesty's Minister of Foreign Affairs when he was there to attend the Coronation festivities, as also the frequent verbal assurances of our friend your intelligent Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, at Rabat, to the effect that your Majesty and your respected Government took heed of this Maghrebin Empire. All this gave us the fullest confidence and tranquillity as regards the statement made by the French Government to the British Government, that it in no way had any designs against any portion of this Empire.

How can it be imagined after that that your Majesty will consent to resign the compacts made with your friends, or that the British Government will approve of the imputation that it had given over a friendly nation, especially in this manner, which is as if it were sold.

A great, exalted nation such as England will not, nor its exalted King, consent to sell his honour just as we are actively undertaking the beginnings of possible internal reforms, and intend immediately—please God—to undertake important reforms, which will open the doors of commerce and strengthen the revenue and army, such as working suitable mines, &c., and to bring men suitable to these undertakings. Also, by obtaining a loan for the money requisite for this purpose from your friendly Government (or nation) and from Germany and France.

Friendship compels me to write this letter to your Majesty, stating what I have heard, as if a friend hears anything which perturbs and which is contrary to what he expects of his friend, although reason would dismiss it as impossible, it is incumbent upon him to inform his friend in any case, so that uncertainty may be removed by the reply. It is, therefore, hoped that your Majesty will consider what has been said, and what the bearer, Kaïd Maclean, will tell your Majesty on this subject, and will grant him an audience, and that you will send us a speedy reply, which is awaited in the sense we expect, and in which we have confidence.

If what we have heard is unfounded—that is our hope—but if it has any foundation for any cause of which we are ignorant, it is trusted that you will do your utmost so that consent may not be given to anything of this in fulfilment of your firm promise, and the pact of your ancestors in protection of the honour of your friends, and your honour to which no compensation can be an equivalent, be it ever so great. It is incumbent upon us to fulfil ours by instituting all possible necessary reforms immediately by the power of God.

May you and your nation continue in honour, peace, progress, and grandeur.

Given at our Court at Fez, 6th Jumad II, 1320 (10th September, 1902).

Annex 2.

Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 6 *Jumad II*, 1320 (*September* 10, 1902).

REPORTS have reached His Shereefian Majesty through the trustworthy English newspapers reports which are widespread and on everyone's tongue, to the effect that the French Government has recently renewed a discussion with the friendly British Government on a subject in which it previously had mixed, urging it to consent to avert its sight and not interfere with the French Government in its designs of seizing part of this Shereefian Empire, and that the British Government showed signs which indicate that it consented to the aims of France, as it had given England compensations by ceding to her certain Colonies and removing that cause of contention, and that the matter is almost concluded, some reports say it is already actually settled and signed. His Majesty is confused by this and thinks it impossible and very extraordinary, as there existed a firmly rooted friendship between the two nations, and because of what was firmly anticipated of the British Government, also because of the sincere promise received by the first and second Envoy in London, which our Lord trusted and which tranquillized him—and your Excellency frequently corroborated it to His Shereefian Majesty at Rabat. As you are at present absent from Tangier, it behoves us not to neglect these reports and to do what is necessary to disclose the facts. So Kaïd Maclean has been sent with two letters from the Sultan; one to His Majesty the King of Great Britain, of which a copy is inclosed, and the other to His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, on this subject. Although he is still confident of the absurdity of this report and is reliant upon your sincere promises and friendship, still it is the duty of a friend to inform his friend of the reports which reach him regarding matters which concern both, whatsoever they may be, especially if the news is contrary to what the friend expected from his friend. He has, therefore, instructed me to write at once to you so that you may know about it, and he—God exalt him—trusts you will reply speedily, as he expects and hopes. If this report is unfounded, and that is what His Majesty expects, but if there are grounds for it due to anything which has arisen of which His Majesty is unaware, you will be able to solve the matter in a manner which will unloose these bonds and stop others from seeking to do it. I await your reply, which will remove all difficulties (doubts) and conjectures.

May you continue, &c.

No. 169.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.

KAÏD MACLEAN informed me this morning that he had been instructed by the Sultan to arrange for a loan and also for the construction of certain railways.

1. *Loan.*—The Sultan wishes to borrow 3,000,000*l.* His Majesty would be ready to take the whole amount from England alone or divide it equally between France, Germany, and England. In the latter case Kaïd Maclean is to proceed to Berlin and arrange for the German portion—the Sultan will deal with the French himself.

The loan or loans would pay an interest of 6 per cent. and be repayable within 10 years. A Royal letter would be given to the lenders promising to pay the annual interest, and engaging, in case of default, that the lenders should be permitted to send agents to certain ports to collect customs duties sufficient to cover the amount of interest due. If at the end of the 10 years the capital is not repaid, the lenders may send agents to certain ports to collect customs duties till the loan was paid off.

The proceeds of the loan are to be devoted to road and bridge building, to port improvements, and to placing the army on an efficient footing.

2. *Railways.*—The Sultan desires that an English Company should construct a line from Casa Blanca through the fertile district of Shaouia to Morocco city. (I think about 190 miles.)

That a French Company should build one from Csaa Blanca to Fez viâ Rabat, and a German Company from Tangier to Fez. Native labour is to be employed in construction of the lines, and no Company is to employ more than fifty Europeans on the works.

When the lines are completed the Moorish Government are to have the option of purchasing them. If the Government do not take advantage of this, the Companies are to work their respective lines and receive all profits for a period of 15 years. At the termination of this period the Moorish Government take over the lines, paying the Companies the original cost of all rolling-stock, and half the original expenses laid out on the lines.

I told Kaïd Maclean that all the above was contrary to the advice tendered to the Sultan in January last at Rabat, and which had been accepted at that time by His Majesty.

Kaïd Maclean replied that since then the Sultan *and all* his Ministers had come to the conclusion that it was impossible to allow the country to remain any longer in its present undeveloped state, and that in order to develop it money and railways were absolutely necessary. He assured me that the Sultan and his Ministers were determined in the matter; and that if we did not assist them, they would consider we were indifferent and unfriendly, and would certainly apply to France and Germany.

I said I would submit what he had communicated to me to Lord Lansdowne.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

September 25, 1902.

No. 170.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 128. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 17, 1902.

I HAVE had an interview with a Shereef who has just arrived from Tafilelt and Figuig, and who is usually well informed as to what is passing in those districts.

He confirms the news that reached me from Fez of the submission of the Ait Atta and the Ait Khabbash, which I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 111 of the 2nd ultimo.

He states that the result was obtained by a liberal distribution of money, but that there is still great discontent amongst the Berber tribes generally, and amongst the Shorfa, who, he alleges, talk of sending some chosen men to Court after the date harvest, nominally to bear presents, but with the intention of assassinating the Sultan and the principal Vizirs. I can hardly, however, believe that a plot of that nature could be successfully carried out.

When at Figuig he found the work on the railway still suspended on account of

the great heat, and the line not advanced beyond Beni Ounif, though when he had passed by Igli he had found some additional buildings erected there. At Figuig he was informed that the line was to proceed by Ben Zirig, Kenadsa, Bon Alala, and Tababalt to Draa, and thence on to Timbuctoo, but though he insists that the line is to go to Tababalt, I think there must be some misunderstanding as all reports show the projected line from the railway to be from Bon Alala to Igli and Tuat, which would also be the most natural and convenient route, and Tababalt lies considerably to the west of Igli.

It was also said at Figuig that the French had informed the Sultan's cousin Moulai Mustafa, who remained in that district after the departure of Gabbas, and has only just returned to Fez, that unless the Sultan became less Anglophil and placed the French on the same footing as the English, they would push forward the frontier beyond the limits agreed upon at Paris. The fact that this report, even if not correct, is current at Figuig is of some interest as showing that His Majesty's Anglophil tendencies are known even in the remoter parts of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 171.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 27.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 19, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 8th instant I have the honour to report that the disturbances at Mequinez and neighbourhood are now at an end, and the roads safe.

All the country Governors who had been kept for some months at Fez, have returned to their districts, but are under orders to collect troops and reassemble at Fez, though I am informed that they are not to be there till the end of the fast month of Ramadan, which would be about the last days of December, which would not be a favourable season for making an expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 172.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

(After compliments.) *September* 30, 1902.

KAÏD MACLEAN handed to me the friendly letter which your Excellency was good enough to address to me under date 6 Jumad II, 1320 (10th instant) in regard to certain reports which had reached the ears of His Shereefian Majesty on some matters which might gravely affect the welfare and independence of His Shereefian Majesty and of the country over which he rules. I am glad, oh friend, that you have written fully and frankly to me, as by the free and open intercourse between friends mists of suspicion and doubt are speedily dispelled. I can assure you, and I beg that you will convey the assurance to His Shereefian Majesty, that the reports which have reached him are without foundation, and that the sincere friendship which my Government have towards His Majesty remains as loyal and unshadowed as before. All that I said to His Majesty at Rabat I would now repeat, and with the same sincerity and goodwill. I beg His Shereefian Majesty and yourself to banish from your thoughts any rumour which may reach you which could lead you to imagine that any proposal detrimental to the interests and independence of His Shereefian Majesty could be entertained for a moment. Kaïd Maclean is proceeding to visit the King, my august Sovereign, to deliver the letter with which he has been intrusted, and he will be able to bring back from higher and more powerful authority than myself the same assurances of goodwill, sympathy, and sincere friendship with which my Government are animated towards His Shereefian Majesty and his able and respected Councillors. I hasten to reply to your letter, and send with this reply my best wishes for the continuance of your health and prosperity.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 173.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 2, 1902.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 16 of 23rd September.

Mr. Macleod, His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reports that he communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 27th ultimo. Ben Sliman proceeded at once to inform Sultan, and desired him to convey his warmest thanks for this communication.

No. 174.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)

KAÏD MACLEAN gave me, this morning, full details regarding the instructions which he had received from the Sultan, and which he asked me to consign to writing, as he had left the few notes he had made in the hands of the King.

The Sultan desires Kaïd Maclean to ascertain whether His Majesty's Government would give him a guarantee that the *status quo* in Morocco should not be disturbed by any Power, and that, in the event of any Power threatening the integrity of Morocco, His Majesty's Government would support the Sultan in withstanding that Power. If such a guarantee be given, the Sultan undertakes, within a period of seven years, to establish a stable and orderly Government, to introduce reforms, and develop trade and the resources of the country by railways, opening of mines, &c., &c.

If, at the expiration of the seven years, the Sultan has not fulfilled the above engagement, the guarantee for the maintenance of the *status quo* is to lapse.

If His Majesty's Government are indisposed by themselves to give such a guarantee, the Sultan would be willing that they should seek the co-operation of Germany. If, again, His Majesty's Government are unwilling, either by themselves or in conjunction with Germany, to give any guarantee, then the Sultan will apply to Germany alone.

The Sultan further ordered Kaïd Maclean to solicit from the King some promise of personal protection, *i.e.*, that in the event of any untoward contingencies arising, the person and private property of the Sultan should be protected by the King. (Kaïd Maclean explained to me that the Sultan had been troubled by the fate of the ex-Queen of Madagascar.) The Sultan further instructed Kaïd Maclean to endeavour to obtain British protection for El Menebhi, the former Envoy to England.

Kaïd Maclean proposes to write to the Sultan to know if he should proceed to Berlin and deliver His Majesty's letter to the German Emperor now that the King and His Majesty's Government have given full assurances that no negotiations are proceeding with France affecting the independence of the Sultan.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.
October 3, 1902.

No. 175.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 354. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 3, 1902.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Dumba (who has the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service), called on me a few days ago, and said that his Government were in some anxiety in consequence of reports that negotiations were on foot between His Majesty's Government and that of France for arriving at an understanding over their respective interests in Siam and Morocco. He gave me to understand that as regarded Siam their own interests were chiefly concerned with the effect which such an arrangement would have commercially upon German trade, in which they participated in a secondary degree; but that with respect to Morocco their apprehensions were far more serious; for if, as he could not believe to be likely, England should ever agree to

the excessive pretensions which France was known to put forward as to the future of the north-west corner of Africa, the situation in the Mediterranean would be changed in a manner extremely serious to the interests of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as well as to those of the other Mediterranean Powers.

M. Dumba said that there did not appear to be any probability that Italy would be induced by any consideration which could be offered to her to connive at an arrangement by which France could, at any moment, convert the Mediterranean, if not into a *mare clausum*, at any rate into a French preserve. Nor would it be easy to persuade Spain to renounce her prospects of territorial acquisition in Morocco. But the interest of the moment centres upon England; as any disposition on her part to enter into French views in the direction in question would enormously impair the power of resistance on the part of the other Mediterranean Powers.

I confined myself in replying to M. Dumba to stating that both in the Far East and nearer home the policy of His Majesty's Government was always directed to the prevention of any violent territorial disturbance; nor was it at all their practice to enter into prospective engagements, the conclusions of which would inevitably tend to bring about, prematurely and unnecessarily, complications of which it would be more expedient to defer as long as possible the occurrence. As for Siam, the reports which have lately been so persistently circulated in France had been, as he would have seen, refuted by authoritative telegrams from well-informed local sources; while as regards Morocco, it is notorious that the British naval forces in the Mediterranean are at this moment far more powerful than they have ever been before, while the efficiency of the fortresses of Malta and Gibraltar occupies the constant attention of the responsible Departments. This state of things does not indicate any intention on the part of His Majesty's Government to withdraw from their traditional policy in the Mediterranean, or to allow France to indulge in speculating upon being given a free hand to work her will in Morocco.

M. Dumba said that the Siamese Legation in Paris is so depressed as to what is passing in London and its effect upon the policy of the French Government, that it is not unnatural to believe that the Siamese Government fears that some arrangement is in contemplation for which Siam will have to pay dearly.

Then the court which France has been paying to Spain, the appointment of M. Cambon as French Ambassador to Madrid, and other significant symptoms inspire the idea that a strong effort is being made to bring about an intimate and comprehensive understanding between the two countries. But M. Dumba at the same time admitted that it is not easy to see what consideration France could offer to Spain which would suffice to procure the acquiescence of the latter in so vast a scheme as the aggrandizement of the French dominions in Africa by the incorporation into them of the Moorish Empire.

As your Lordship will see, this conversation was far more academical than practical; and since it took place statements have been made in London as to the Siamese negotiations, which will have made the situation clear to those who profess anxiety. I nevertheless report what passed, because M. Dumba is a diplomatist of experience and discretion, and had evidently been instructed to broach to me the questions which formed the objects of his inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 176.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that Shereefian orders have arrived from Fez to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres and Sid Benasser Ghannam to proceed to the Court with as little delay as possible, and they are leaving Tangier on the 27th instant.

I inquired of Sid Benasser Ghannam, who was calling upon me this afternoon, whether he had been informed of the object of his summons to the Court, but he replied that no hint had been given to them on this point, and he himself was ignorant on the subject. He had heard, however, that rumours were current that the Sultan proposed to obtain a loan from England, and he thought it possible that His Majesty might wish to consult them in the matter. He desired, therefore, to inform himself as to the loan raised in England in 1861, and he requested me to lend him copies of the Conventions that were then signed.

I will endeavour to ascertain the real motive of the Sultan in summoning to Fez Sid Ghannam and Sid Torres, for the latter being advanced in years and somewhat infirm His Majesty would not lightly ask him to undertake the journey to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 177.

Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.

KAÏD MACLEAN desires that the following should be communicated to Lord Lansdowne:—

At present the Sultan and all his Ministers are prepared and wish to place themselves entirely in the hands of His Majesty's Government, and to follow any advice His Majesty's Government may think fit to give. At the same time the Sultan wishes to feel that he can confidently rely on the support of His Majesty's Government in any eventuality.

If His Majesty's Government are unable to promise such support, the Sultan will do all in his power to obtain it from Germany. From all Kaïd Maclean has seen and heard at the Sultan's Court, he is confident that Germany would be inclined to accord the support the Sultan and his Government are seeking, especially if His Majesty were to place himself unreservedly in German hands.

The Sultan told Kaïd Maclean that if His Majesty's Government failed him he would be forced to apply to some other nation. His Majesty added that he was positive His Majesty's Government had no idea of the course France was pursuing in Morocco, and that her attitude in regard to frontier affairs showed that she had no intention of carrying out the arrangements made in Paris last year.

His Majesty said further that the Shereefs of Wazzan are working against his Government, and are disseminating slanderous reports in regard to himself; and that as the Shereefs are under French protection His Majesty was unable to take any steps in regard to them. The great religious influence exercised by the Shereefs made such action on their part an extremely serious matter.

Kaïd Maclean is of opinion that the Sultan would be satisfied if His Majesty's Government were to inform him that they fully believed the assurances given by France that she would not disturb the *status quo*, and that in the event of her showing a disposition to do so, His Majesty's Government would be ready to protect the Sultan's interests.

Kaïd Maclean is convinced that the Sultan would not be satisfied with less than an assurance of the nature indicated above.

Travellers' Club, Pall Mall,
October 8, 1902.

No. 178.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1902.

HAVING ascertained during the recent hot weather that the prisoners confined in the Tangier gaols were suffering from an insufficiency of water, I made private representations to the local authorities, who doubled the quantity of water supplied to the prisoners, but declared their inability to do more without express orders from the Court. The provision of water being still totally inadequate, I took steps to bring the matter privately to the knowledge of the Sultan, whose interest in the prisoners had, I knew, been awakened by the representations that had been made to His Majesty on the subject by Sir A. Nicolson.

I was informed, in reply, that, acting on Sir A. Nicolson's suggestions, the Sultan had been engaged in preparing a scheme of prison reforms which would shortly be completed, and that His Majesty would then appoint officials to superintend the prisons in the various towns and see that the reforms were carried out.

I now learn that the official appointed for Tangier has already left Fez to enter upon his duties, in which he will be assisted by a notary of this place, and that he is

furnished with instructions as to the reforms to be introduced. These will, I presume, be similar to those already introduced at Fez, as reported in a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, of which I beg leave to transmit a copy herewith.

The action taken by the Sultan appears to me to be an important step in the direction of improving the condition of prisoners in this country, and I have every hope that further reforms will gradually follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Mr. White.

(No. 42.)
Sir, *Fez, September* 20, 1902.

FOR some time the Sultan has had under consideration a scheme of prison reform, a forecast of which the Vizier for Foreign Affairs communicated privately in May last to Mr. Henry Gurney, of the Howard Association, when that gentleman was on a visit here.

I have now the satisfaction to report that on the 4th instant a start was made in giving effect to the project.

Two inspectors, at salaries of 3 dollars per day, and two notaries to accompany them, have been appointed, and their duties are as follows:—

1. To inspect each prison daily.
2. To see that the prisons are kept clean, and lime-washed regularly.
3. To see that the water supply and the latrines, drains, &c., are kept in good working order.
4. To see that the Mosque part of each prison, the doorways, and latrines, &c., be lighted regularly with oil lamps.
5. To distribute justly and openly the food and clothes sent by charitable persons to the prisoners.

All administration in these matters has now been taken out of the gaoler's hands.

6. To report daily to the Sultan's Court on new cases, where these are serious, and to make such recommendations for or against them as may seem just.

When the cases are trifling, however, the Inspectors may discuss and settle them with the Basha or the Cadi, whichever has committed the prisoner; but in the event of disagreement, particulars of the cases are to be remitted to the Sultan's Court for decision.

I learn from private inquiries that the lime-washing and cleaning and lighting of the prisons have already been effected, and that the prisoners are content with the Inspectors' administration of gifts of food and clothes to them.

Under the scheme the prisoners are allowed, as hitherto, to earn money by basket-making, or similar occupations, and to purchase whatever food or luxuries they wish, and they may be visited freely by their friends.

There is, however, no daily Government ration of food, or periodical Government issue of clothing provided under the scheme.

Moreover, the cases of what are known as "Sultan's prisoners," which, roughly, include persons accused of rebellion in some form, or notorious criminals sent to the Sultan by local officials, are not within the scope of the Inspectors' supervision.

Amongst the former class, particularly, there may often be cases of injustice, intentional or accidental, which could be redressed were a regular means of representation of them to the Sultan open.

The women's prisons are not comprised in the new scheme.

In Fez, the women's prison is, however, not a Government institution, but a sort of home of refuge supported by an endowment, the same house and endowment maintaining pauper lunatics and providing for the burial of the destitute poor.

I understand that the Sultan intends to extend this reform to all the prisons in the towns of his dominions.

On the whole, if the scheme continues to be efficiently administered, it cannot, I think, fail to greatly ameliorate the condition of prisoners, and may, if successful, lead to further reforms of the same kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 179.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 4, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 132 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I learn from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez that Cid Abdelkrim-bin-Sliman informed him that Cid Mohammed Torres and Cid Benasser Ghannam had been summoned to the Court, as the Sultan desired to consult them regarding the various reforms His Majesty wished to introduce into this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S.—In a later despatch, just received, Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod reports that Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi informed him that the principal matters about which the Sultan wished to consult Cid Torres and Cid Ghannam were the new taxation scheme, a railway to Marakesh, and telegraphs. I was not aware that the Sultan was again considering the introduction of railways or telegraphs in the immediate future, and Mr. MacLeod states that he had not heard the subject mentioned before at the Court.

H. E. W.

No. 180.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 405. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1902.

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day, and spoke to me at some length upon the subject of the Agreement recently concluded between France and Siam.

He expressed the opinion that the arrangement was advantageous to Great Britain, in that it diminished the prospect of friction between France and Siam—a country in the security and tranquillity of which we were of course interested—and he said that the territory ceded to France by Siam was insignificant, and that the evacuation of Chantaboum and the abolition of the 25-kilom. zone were most important concessions to Siam.

He referred to our conversation of the 6th August (*vide* my despatch No. 316 A of the 6th August), and told me that the new Treaty, which had been carried through quicker than the French Government had expected, seemed to him to be entirely in accordance with the policy which he had then described to me.

I told his Excellency that we had scarcely had time to examine the Franco-Siamese Treaty in all its bearings, but that it contained one clause at any rate which seemed to us to involve an encroachment on our rights under the Treaty of 1855. I referred to the IVth Article, in which it was stipulated that "à l'avenir, dans la partie Siamoise du bassin du Mékong, le Gouvernement Royal, s'il désire exécuter des ports, canaux, chemins de fer (notamment les chemins de fer destinés à relier la capitale à un point quelconque de ce bassin), se mettra d'accord avec le Gouvernement Français, dans le cas où ces travaux ne pourraient être exécutés exclusivement par un personnel et avec des capitaux Siamois."

M. Cambon did not dispute my contention, but replied that such an arrangement was in the spirit of the policy which he had adumbrated, and that, without saying so officially, he felt no doubt that if we were to reply to the Franco-Siamese Treaty by a corresponding Anglo-Siamese Arrangement in regard to other unguaranteed portions of the Siamese dominions, the French Government would readily acquiesce.

His Excellency also reminded me that it was a matter of notoriety that we had lately come to an Arrangement with Siam with regard to the Malay States of Kelantan and Trengganu.

I said that I had no desire to criticize the Franco-Siamese Treaty in a pedantic spirit, and that I was quite inclined to agree with M. Delcassé in believing that these matters were capable of satisfactory adjustment between our two Governments. The Cabinet had, however, only just reassembled, and I was not yet able to make any definite announcement to him upon this point. I observed, moreover, that the Treaty was not yet ratified, and need not be ratified for four months, and it might, I thought,

be better that we should not pronounce ourselves with regard to it until after its ratification.

His Excellency did not treat this objection seriously, and said that the agitation which was proceeding against the Treaty was due to the action of a comparatively small number of Cambodians who were discontented with the new arrangements as to registration, and that there was no doubt whatever that the Treaty would be ratified before long. He trusted that we should be able to arrive at an arrangement which would not only involve the recognition by each of us of the sphere of influence belonging to the other, but also enable us to make common cause against the interference of any third Power in Siamese affairs.

He repeated that the earnest desire of the French Government was that there should be no cause for misunderstanding between Great Britain and France, and that the two Governments should treat one another with the fullest confidence.

I said that that was my feeling also, and that I hoped before long to place the whole of my cards upon the table. I could not do so yet, partly because the matter had not yet been fully considered by my colleagues, and also because our arrangements as to Kelantan and Trengganu, which concerned the Malay Rajahs as well as the Siamese Government, were not actually concluded.

His Excellency then spoke to me again about Morocco, repeating what he had said to me on the 6th August as to the desirability of an understanding with regard to that country also.

He reminded me that I had described Kaïd Maclean as a simple soldier charged with the management of the Sultan's forces. It appeared, however, that Kaïd Maclean had assumed the rôle of Ambassador, and had come to this country as the bearer of letters from the Sultan to the King.

I told his Excellency that one of the objects with which Kaïd Maclean had come here was to make arrangements for a Moorish loan, and also for the distribution of certain railway Concessions which the Sultan thought of granting. The Sultan was, I said, prepared to divide both the loan and the Concessions between France, Germany, and England, and we had encouraged him in this course in order to avoid international rivalries.

M. Cambon observed that, in his opinion, if Kaïd Maclean were to go to Paris for the purpose of borrowing there, the French Government would endeavour to dissuade him from borrowing.

I said that I, too, regretted that His Majesty should wish to borrow money, but that he was bent upon executing improvements, and was without resources for the purpose. I took the opportunity of saying that the Shereefian Government had attempted to provide itself with additional income by means of internal taxation applicable to foreigners and natives enjoying foreign protection, but that I understood that the French Government had hitherto refused its assent, although all the other Powers, except Russia, whose interests must be quite insignificant, had notified their acceptance of the measure.

M. Cambon assured me that this was a mistake, and that in his belief none of the Powers concerned had given their consent to the imposition of these taxes.

His Excellency repeated what he had said to me in August as to the respective interests of France and England in Morocco, dwelling upon the argument that we had no political concern with the interior of the country, that our concern was mainly with Tangier, and that the greater part of the seaboard was inhospitable and useless.

I refused to admit that this was a correct description, and I again said that we were not prepared to discuss a possible "liquidation" of Morocco, and that, so far as I could understand the terms upon which it was suggested that such a liquidation might take place, they appeared to me to be of a kind which we should have difficulty in accepting.

His Excellency assured me that the French Government had no desire to bring about a premature liquidation, but that they sought, by means of an agreement as to all thorny points, to diminish the chances of a liquidation becoming necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 181.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 136. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 8, 1902.

WITH reference to the Sultan's projected expedition reported in my despatch No. 130 of the 19th ultimo, I have received private intelligence from a correspondent at Fez that he has been confidentially informed by Sid Mehedi-el-Ménebhi that it is the Sultan's intention to leave Fez for Mequinez before the Ramadan fast commences; that His Majesty would make but a short stay there, during which he would severely punish the Gerouan tribe, who were responsible for the recent disturbances at Mequinez, and would then proceed to Rabat, where the Court would remain about two months. After that the Sultan would make a punitive expedition into the Tedla country and then go to Marakesh, where His Majesty expected to arrive in the early summer.

My informant states that the Vizier for War is again in high favour with the Sultan, and must be acquainted with His Majesty's intentions; he is therefore convinced that the foregoing, which was communicated to him by Sid-el-Ménebhi in confidence, is undoubtedly His Majesty's present programme, though it is open to doubt whether it will not have to be modified, as he is of opinion that it will be difficult to organize an expedition on the necessary scale by the date mentioned.

It appears to me that the Sultan would be better advised to make a longer stay at his northern capital, and it is to be hoped that His Majesty may yet modify his plans and not return to Marakesh so soon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 182.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 11, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 30th ultimo regarding prison reforms in this country, I have the honour to report that I had an interview to-day with the official appointed to superintend the prisons at Tangier, and, at my request, he communicated to me privately the substance of the instructions he had received on the subject from the Sultan.

I found his instructions substantially the same as those given to the Superintendents of the Fez prisons, as reported in Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod's despatch No. 42 of the 20th ultimo, copy of which was inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch, except that they are more satisfactory in that they apply to all the prisons at Tangier, including even that for women, and they provide for supplying the prisoners, when necessary, with food, clothing, and matting for sleeping on. Thus, every prisoner who is not provided with food by his relations or friends receives a daily allowance of two good loaves of bread, and the water supply is calculated at the rate of about three gallons for each prisoner.

The Superintendent and Notary are ordered to visit each of the prisons every day, and personally see to the distribution of bread and the supply of water. They have daily to make a thorough inspection of the prisons, and to see that they are kept in proper repair and clean and are provided with lamps. They must keep a register in which is to be entered the names of each prisoner, his place of residence, the date of entry into prison, cause of imprisonment, &c. These particulars are to be obtained from the prisoners themselves, the register being subsequently submitted to the official by whom they are committed to prison, a note being made whether he confirms their statement or not.

The Superintendent has no power to revise the sentences, but he is instructed to forward a copy of the register to the Court every month, together with any observations or recommendations he may desire to make.

I inquired whether any instructions had been given as to the placing of irons on prisoners, and was informed that he had no orders on the subject, but he promised

to recommend that no prisoners should be placed in irons except those that had been guilty of serious crimes, and who, it was feared, might escape, and that they should only have the chains attached to their ankles and not to their necks, as at present.

I understand that Superintendents have, as yet, only been appointed for the prisons at Fez and Tangier, but that it is the Sultan's intention to extend the system as soon as possible to the whole country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 183.

His Majesty King Edward VII to the Sultan of Morocco.

EDWARD, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Emperor of India, &c. To the High and Glorious Monarch, the Mighty and Right Noble Prince, Abdul Aziz, Emperor of the Kingdoms of Fez, Morocco, Taffilet and Suza, and all the Algarve and its Territories in Africa.

High and Glorious Monarch:

We have received, from the hands of Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean, the letter which your Imperial Majesty addressed to us on the 10th September, and in which your Imperial Majesty communicates to us certain reports which had reached you that our Government had agreed to some arrangements which would gravely affect the integrity and independence of your country. Your Imperial Majesty has expressed much concern and surprise at these reports, and has inquired whether there is any foundation for them, as you desire that all doubt and uncertainty should be speedily removed.

We are much gratified that your Imperial Majesty has addressed yourself fully and frankly to us, as we are happy to have the opportunity of removing all misconceptions, and of assuring your Imperial Majesty that the reports in question are absolutely without any foundation. Your Imperial Majesty may confidently believe in the friendly feelings with which we are animated towards you, and may discard, as unworthy of credit, any rumours which would tend to throw any doubt on our sincere desire that the country over which you rule should continue to maintain its independence and advance on the path of progress and healthy development.

We confidently trust that your Imperial Majesty will accept the assurances of goodwill and cordial friendship, which we have much pleasure in renewing once more to your Imperial Majesty, and will not permit any shadow to be cast on those intimate and close relations which so happily exist between us.

We hope that a long and prosperous life may be vouchsafed to your Imperial Majesty, and so we recommend you to the protection of the Almighty.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace, the twenty-first day of October, nineteen hundred and two, and in the second year of our reign.

Your Imperial Majesty's most affectionate Friend,
(Signed) EDWARD, R. AND I.

(Countersigned) LANSDOWNE.

No. 184.

Mr. J. C. H. Lepper to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 23.)

Cathedral Buildings, Donegall Street, Belfast, October 22, 1902.

My Lord,

AS agent for the late Mr. David J. Cooper, reported in press to-day murdered at Fez (Morocco), I write to ask for the favour of an early copy of any information which may reach the Foreign Office, giving particulars of how this British subject was attacked.

I shall also feel obliged for information as to what steps can be taken to insure the safe return to the coast of Mr. Cooper's wife and two children.

No. 182*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Tangier, October 20, 1903.*

MR. DAVID COOPER, an English missionary, was murdered on the 17th instant at Fez by a Moor. The murderer was at once arrested and executed the same day by the Sultan's orders. The man apparently was a fanatic. The authorities acted well and with promptitude, and have taken precautions to protect other European residents.

Kindly inform me also as to whether any claim for compensation can be made on behalf of Mrs. Cooper and her children, who have been thus suddenly deprived of their support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. H. LEPPER.

No. 185.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 23, 1902.

I HAVE received Mr. White's despatch No. 137 of the 11th instant, reporting the reforms introduced in the prisons at Tangier.

I have to request you to express to the Moorish Government the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at the measures which have been adopted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 24, 1902.

MY telegram No. 32.

I am given to understand that the Sultan is not indisposed to grant an indemnity on his own initiative, and I have been sounded on the question of compensation to the family of the late missionary.

The Sultan acted very promptly and energetically, and the above course, I would submit, would be preferable to our making a formal demand.

Were the Sultan to spontaneously grant an indemnity it would be a generous and wise act, and, if your Lordship approves, I would have a private intimation conveyed to His Majesty, and suggest 1,000*l.* Deceased's pay was 120*l.* a-year, and there are a widow and two children left without means. As regards the method of granting and amount of the indemnity, I will await your Lordship's wishes.

No. 187.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 33 of to-day, I concur as to the course suggested and the sum proposed by you as compensation to the widow and children, who should be conveyed in safety and free of cost to the coast.

The Sultan seems to have acted in a very commendable manner.

No. 188.

Memorandum for Kaïd Sir H. Maclean.

(Confidential.)

KAÏD SIR H. MACLEAN has communicated to me verbally the various messages and proposals with which he was entrusted by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan of Morocco.

These matters have received the careful attention of His Majesty's Government.

1. His Shereefian Majesty's proposal that the integrity of Morocco should be guaranteed by Great Britain, or failing that by Great Britain and Germany jointly, for a period of seven years only, and that this guarantee should lapse if before the end of the seven years the Sultan has not thoroughly re-formed his Government and developed the resources of his country, does not seem to His Majesty's Government to be well calculated to achieve the objects which his Shereefian Majesty has in view. It would, for instance, be easy for some interested Power to contend at the end of the seven years that the reforms had not proved effectual, and that the guarantee was, therefore, inoperative.

Moreover, the integrity of Morocco concerns not only Great Britain, or Great Britain and Germany, but other European States also. The result of our communications with them, and particularly with France, convinces us that none of them contemplate, or are seeking to effect, a disturbance of the *status quo*.

We are, of course, aware that the French Government desire to arrive at an arrangement which would put an end to the friction between the French and the Moorish tribes on the south-east border of the Sultan's dominions. On the other hand, we have received repeated and explicit assurances from the French Government that they do not desire to raise issues involving the partition of Morocco, or to threaten the integrity of the Sultan's Empire.

As for ourselves, we have always regarded, and still regard, the Moorish question as one in which we have a special interest, but any attempt to interfere with the integrity and independence of Morocco would be a matter of general concern, and there is not the slightest chance of any one Power being given a free hand in that country. Great Britain will not acquiesce in any such attempt.

2. The Sultan may depend upon the personal friendship of the King, and of the British Government.

3. His Majesty's Government approve of the proposal to offer the Moorish loan in England, France, and Germany, and also of the plan of distributing the concessions for railways between those three countries in a manner which can be hereafter decided. This method of procedure seems well calculated both to prevent rivalry between the Powers, and also to facilitate the transactions which will be necessary. The points between which the lines of railway should be constructed, and the country to which each should be assigned, are questions which would require very careful study.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1902.

No. 189.

Memorandum for Kaïd Sir H. Maclean.

(Secret.)

IN reply to certain very private communications which Kaïd Sir H. Maclean has mentioned verbally to me, he is authorized to assure His Majesty the Sultan that, should His Majesty ever seek protection in Great Britain for his personal and private property, the British Government will gladly afford it.

They will, in accordance with His Majesty's desire, give papers of protection to Cid-el-Menebhi.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1902.

No. 190.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. C. H. Lepper.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 24, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, asking for information with regard to the murder of the late Mr. David J. Cooper at Fez.

I am to inform you that from telegrams received from Sir A. Nicolson, His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, it seems that Mr. Cooper was murdered on the 17th instant by a Moor, apparently a fanatic. The murderer was at once arrested, and executed the same day by the Sultan's orders.

I am to add that the question of compensation is under consideration, and that Sir A. Nicolson has been requested to arrange for the safe conveyance of Mrs. Cooper and her family to the coast free of cost.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 191.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 139.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 18, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch addressed by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to Mr. White, relative to some reported disturbances in the Taza district, and to the measures which the Shereefian Government propose to take against the tribes who have been giving trouble near Mequinez.

I regret that the Sultan considers it necessary to leave his capital, and to proceed in person to Mequinez, and subsequently to Rabat. His Majesty's stay at Fez, after a very prolonged absence, has been of short duration, and, in my opinion, it would have been wiser if he remained at Fez until the various projects of reform and development, which he has in contemplation, had advanced towards being carried into execution. It is of primary importance that His Majesty should secure the goodwill and loyal co-operation of the Notables of Fez in any schemes he may wish to introduce, and his disinclination to live for any time in the chief city of his dominions will not, I should think, be very pleasing to its inhabitants.

If the unruly tribes are willing to make their submission to the Sultan at Fez, the necessity of a costly expedition seems scarcely to arise; and if the former course had been adopted, His Majesty and his Government would have been enabled to devote their undivided attention to measures conducive to the general well-being, instead of being preoccupied by punitive expeditions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Mr. White.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Fez, October* 15, 1902.

A NATIVE report reached me this morning that, at Taza, a movement had begun amongst the townspeople and the surrounding tribesmen to proclaim one of their own number as Sultan, and that on this account the ensuing departure of the Court from Fez had been indefinitely postponed.

In answer to inquiries I at once made, Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the Sultan's Vizier for Foreign Affairs, told me, for your information, that the Court had heard that a certain Ghiati tribesman had begun to preach in those districts, appealing to the people to join together under him to reform religion and government, but the man was considered mad, and was not obtaining a serious hearing from anybody.

The Moorish Government had, however, sent people to arrest him, and they expected shortly to hear of his capture.

But the Vizier did not consider the affair of any importance, nor at all likely to interfere with the Court's departure from Fez.

With regard to affairs at Mequinez, the Vizier said the Zimmur and Geruan tribes had "sacrificed" to Sidi Mohammed, the Commander of the Sultan's troops at Mequinez, and had promised to offer the same submission at once in Fez to the Sultan himself; nevertheless, the Court meant to punish both of those tribes severely.

I hear, privately, that the Court have been distributing gifts of money and clothes freely amongst the Beni Négild and Zazan deputations who have come here recently, and who have engaged to co-operate with the Sultan's troops in punishing Geruan and Zimmur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MacLEOD.

No. 192.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 20, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting the murder, on the 17th instant, of Mr. Cooper, a British subject, and I also beg leave to forward a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

The murder was the act of a fanatic, and the prompt and vigorous action taken by the Sultan cannot be too highly praised. The man took refuge in the most sacred and revered sanctuary in Morocco, and it was an act of great courage on the part of the Sultan to have him seized in the sanctuary, and brought speedily to justice. This action on the part of His Majesty will have an admirable effect on the fanatical classes of Fez, and the fact that a Moslem who murders a Christian in front of a mosque and seeks refuge in so holy a place as the Sanctuary of Moulai Dris, can nevertheless be arrested and executed is an event without precedent in this country.

I should be glad to be authorized by your Lordship to convey to the Sultan the appreciation of His Majesty's Government of the measures which he so promptly adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Fez, October* 17, 1902.

I DEEPLY regret to inform you that about 11 this morning Mr. David J. Cooper, of the North Africa Mission, was shot by a country Moor opposite the south door of the Karnin Mosque and died about 1·30 P.M. He was attended by Dr. Verdon and Mr. F. J. Bennett at once, but his condition was, they say, practically hopeless from the first.

Immediately on hearing of this I sent my assistant, Mr. A. C. G. Hastings, to apprise the Basha and the Court at New Fez if possible before the Friday prayers began.

I myself went at once to Mr. Cooper's home with Dr. Verdon. On the way I heard that the Lieutenant-Governor had already proceeded to the spot with soldiers, and the criminal had taken sanctuary in Moulai Dris. The Lieutenant-Governor stopped the exits there and informed the Court, whereupon the High Chamberlain, Kaïd Dris Beni Aish, at the instance of Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, went down himself to the sanctuary and took out the criminal in the Sultan's name.

The criminal was then taken before His Shereefian Majesty in the presence of Mr. Hastings. He said he had shot the Christian designedly for there were no good Moslems left in the country, and all the Christians should be killed.

The Sultan thereupon ordered him to be flogged on the spot and round the town; this was done, the criminal receiving at least 900 lashes.

Meanwhile messengers whom His Majesty had sent to inquire for Mr. Cooper returned with the news that he had died.

On hearing of Mr Cooper's death the Sultan caused a notarial document to be made and a legal decision given, and when that was done, he caused the criminal to be shot in the presence of the Viziers and of Mr. Hastings, opposite the gate of the arsenal.

Shortly after returning to my house (about 2·15 P.M.) the Basha called here on his return from Court and related the foregoing to me. It was all subsequently confirmed by Mr. Hastings.

I thanked the Basha very earnestly for the energetic action of his Lieutenant and for the courageous conduct of His Majesty in thus promptly making a striking example of the criminal.

I need scarcely point out how distasteful it is for the Moorish Government to take a Moslem's life for a Christian's in such a city as Fez, and still more how manful it was not to let such a sanctuary as Moulai Dris in which the criminal had taken refuge, interfere with the course of justice.

The Moorish authorities are putting, for caution's sake, guards on European houses for a few days. I do not, however, anticipate any danger to Europeans here. The crime appears to have been the act of a fanatical madman only, and the populace do not seem generally to have sympathized with it. I heard of one man only who raised a cry of "burn the Christian, &c.," when the murder occurred, and I gave his name to the Basha's Secretary, who at once went off to arrest him.

Mr. Cooper was a man of most amiable and prudent disposition, and popular with all classes, native as well as European. He leaves a wife and two infant children, all of whom are here. He was about 28 years of age, and has been resident here about two years. The funeral will take place to-morrow morning in the cemetery the Sultan lately granted to the foreign colony here.

I will, of course, report fully in detail on this subject later on, and send a formal medical certificate and any other papers that may be necessary.

I propose, meanwhile, to call upon the Viziers individually and thank them for the Moorish Government's resolute action, and if I have an opportunity this afternoon will do so also to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MacLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier* (*Rajab* 17, 1320), *October* 20, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has informed me of the sad event which occurred there on the 17th instant, when a British subject, Mr. Cooper, was murdered, without any provocation, by a Moorish subject. This news caused me much pain, and I trust that your Excellency will see that all possible precautions are taken to keep the lives of all British subjects, and, indeed, of all Europeans in safety and security. It is of the utmost importance that acts such as that which has recently occurred should be prevented, and that peaceful Europeans should be allowed to reside at the capital of His Majesty in perfect security.

At the same time, I wish to express my respectful and most sincere thanks to His Majesty, the Sultan, for the courageous and prompt action which he caused to be taken, and which led to the immediate arrest of the criminal, and to his execution. By these measures His Majesty has shown his detestation of crimes of the nature of that which has occurred, and his determination to repress with the utmost severity any attempt on the lives of peaceable individuals.

In reporting to my Government the details of the sad event, I shall take the opportunity of bringing to their notice the very praiseworthy action of His Majesty, and also the promptitude with which all the authorities under his command acted in the matter. I beg your Excellency to communicate the above to His Majesty, with my renewed thanks to His Majesty for his energetic action.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 193.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 99. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 29, 1902.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Confidential information, copy of the letter which the King has addressed to the Sultan of Morocco,* in reply to the letter from His Shereefian Majesty which was brought by Kaïd Sir H. Maclean. It is intended that the King's letter should be intrusted to Kaïd Maclean for delivery to the Sultan.

I also inclose copies of two Confidential Memoranda which will be furnished to Sir Harry Maclean in reply to the messages with which he was charged.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 194.

Memorandum for Kaïd Sir H. Maclean.

(Very Confidential.)

IN consequence of the message with which Kaïd Maclean was charged as to the desire of His Shereefian Majesty to conclude a loan of 3,000,000*l.* to be divided between Great Britain, France, and Germany, Kaïd Maclean was provided with a letter of introduction to Lord Rothschild, the head partner of the great financial firm of Rothschild and Sons.

After hearing Kaïd Maclean's statement Lord Rothschild expressed his opinion that if His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco desires to raise a loan of any considerable amount, it will be absolutely necessary that the Moorish Government should, in the first place, produce a clear statement of their revenue and expenditure, showing the resources which are available as security for such a loan. The conditions of the loan could then be discussed. This view seems to His Majesty's Government a reasonable one.

His Majesty's Government feel that an attempt to raise the loan entirely in England would give great offence to the French Government, who have many means of making their displeasure felt. If, on the other hand, the Sultan were to apply to a foreign Government or Governments as well as that of Great Britain, it is probable that those Governments would not only expect political advantages in return, but would also insist upon stipulations which will involve international control of some of the Moorish revenues.

For these reasons Sir Arthur Nicolson advised that, if possible, a loan should be altogether avoided, and His Majesty's Government thought the advice sound and wise. If, however, a loan is necessary they believe that the plan of dividing it between some leading financial establishments in Great Britain, France, and Germany is the best, and if the Sultan should be in need of a financial expert to advise upon the best method of procedure, they will endeavour to place an experienced and trustworthy adviser at his disposal.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Foreign Office, October 30, 1902.

No. 195.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 21, 1902.

THE French Minister spoke to me this afternoon in regard to the projected departure of the Sultan from Fez, and expressed his grave doubts as to the prudence of this step. He stated that his information was to the effect that the districts round

* No. 184. † Nos. 190 and 191.

Fez were in a disturbed condition, and that in the town itself there were symptoms of a discontent and unrest. The recent murder of Mr. Cooper, an act probably of a fanatic, was nevertheless significant; and the action of the Sultan in seizing the criminal in the most sacred sanctuary of Morocco, though courageous and praiseworthy, might accentuate the bitterness which the Ulema class felt towards His Majesty on account of his advanced and progressive ideas. In the circumstances, M. Saint René Taillandier considered it would be wiser if the Sultan were to remain at Fez, and by his presence keep in check the turbulent and fanatical elements.

M. Saint René Taillandier, with some hesitation, proceeded to remark that he feared the Sultan was of late acting under no very judicious advice. He understood that an Englishman, Mr. Harris, had contrived to gain the intimate confidence of His Majesty, and had been the channel of some strange tales. He found that this new confidant of the Sultan had, since his return from England, sketched out a policy which might lead His Majesty on an extremely dangerous course were he to follow it. M. Saint René Taillandier added that, from his slight acquaintance with Mr. Harris, he considered him to be a charming man in society, but a gentleman on whose veracity and good judgment no great reliance could be placed.

I told my French colleague that I concurred with him that it was unfortunate that the Sultan should leave Fez at this moment, and that it would be wiser if His Majesty were to make a longer stay in his capital. With respect to Mr. Harris, I said that he was an irresponsible person, whose lively imagination might be entertaining in society, but whom I should view with considerable misgiving as a confidential adviser to a Sovereign in the delicate position of the Sultan.

I had no control over Mr. Harris' movements or actions, and it was needless for me to state that I did not take him into my confidence on serious matters. Personally, I attached little weight to any utterances of Mr. Harris, though I did not deny that they might occasionally cause considerable mischief.

M. Saint René Taillandier remarked that during the first fortnight of September, immediately after Mr. Harris' arrival at Fez, the whole situation seemed suddenly to change, and he could not but believe that this was on account of some advice which he had tendered or some statements which he had made to the Sultan.

The subject then dropped.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 196.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida, reporting on the condition of the country within his district. The information given by Mr. Maclean is interesting, and does not bear out the reports which of late have been circulated from various quarters that the whole of Morocco is in a state of turmoil and unrest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 80. Confidential.)

Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, October* 20, 1902.

INFORMATION I have received through Vice-Consuls and other sources since my return from leave enables me to report that, although there are rumours in Mogador that unimportant disturbances have occurred in Sus, generally speaking, the tribes in the whole of my Consular district are unusually tranquil and contented.

Country Moors have enjoyed a prosperous year, as they sold their crops at good prices, and have not been asked to pay taxes.

There is ample evidence of the existence of comparative prosperity. Never in their memory have the leather workers in Marrakesh had such a busy and profitable time in embroidering leather for saddles, &c.; nearly the whole of the wool-clip has been used up in the country for "haiks" and native-made woollen garments, and only small quantities have been exported. A considerable quantity of the grain harvested has been buried. Silversmiths have been, and are, abnormally busy in making bracelets and other ornaments for the adornment of women. High prices—as much as 80 dollars—are offered for Winchester rifles; a better quality of importation from Europe is in demand.

The Governor of Dar-el-Baida informs me that he and his colleagues judge the extent of prosperity existing by the above signs.

The evidence of unusual tranquillity is that there have been many "musims" (a kind of fair or rendezvous) all over the country, which have been attended by great numbers of people without untoward accidents of any kind.

In less happy times these "musims" are productive of fights and quarrels and demonstrations of discontent towards the Government Representatives. Further signs of tranquillity are that Governors can travel about their districts during the night and without an escort, and cases of theft of cattle and highway robbery are remarkably rare.

The present attitude of country Moors towards Europeans is more independent, but not less friendly. All the same, I hear from all sides that the applications for "semsar" and "Mokhalateen" certificates are as frequent as ever there were, and I ascribe this to the native distrust in the future.

Merchants inform me that there is a great improvement in business relations with the natives. Until recently the provincial authorities have remained idle, took no notice of complaints, and professed to be powerless. This was an attitude purposely assumed in the face of Shereefian orders, that no presents were to be given or accepted and no taxation was to be levied. Latterly, instructions have been received by the Governor that they or their Khalifas are to inquire into all complaints brought before them, and are to administer justice.

These orders have aroused the local authorities from their lethargy, and, according to reports I have received, affairs are now unusually satisfactory.

For months past Kaïds and Khalifas have abstained from extortion in any shape or form. I believe that never previously in the history of Morocco has it been possible to truthfully make such a statement. I have been in touch with several provincial Kaïds, and it appears to me that they are surprised and disappointed that tranquillity prevails.

The policy has been that a savage treatment of the people was necessary, and I remember hearing that the late Sultan Mulay Hassan expressed those visws when urged by diplomatists to exercise greater leniency.

The object of the policy was not the good of the people, but the enrichment of the authorities.

I find that never before in my experience has the word or order of the Government or a Governor obtained such prompt obedience as it does at the present moment. Of course, my remarks apply to the settled provinces about which I can speak with knowledge.

It is necessary to bear in mind that the above observations are made after a period during which no taxes have been levied, a condition of affairs which cannot be prolonged indefinitely, and after a season which has been fairly favourable for crops. The collection of taxes in Morocco has always been the powerful instrument for extortion, and the seasons of scarce crops have invariably been productive of local discontent and crimes, but the object of this despatch is simply to submit to your Excellency the present state of affairs.

I might, perhaps, venture on the opinion that, if the country Moors were immediately called upon to pay taxes according to the schedule and the system promulgated in the spring in this year, there would be no difficulty in their collection so far as the people themselves are concerned, provided the collectors acted honestly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 196°.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 1.)

No. 145. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, it would appear that, with the exception of El Mehedi El Menebhi, the Minister of War, most of the Moorish Ministers were in favour of postponing the execution of the criminal, while the Ulema were strongly opposed to justice being done. The latter were, I hear from other sources, much perturbed at what they regarded as a violation of the sanctuary of Moulai Dris, and were desirous of making a demonstration in favour of the criminal. The firm attitude adopted by the Sultan, and the celerity with which the execution was carried out, frustrated any action on the part of the Ulema.

I am informed that the action of the Sultan has caused a deep impression on the populace, though it is naturally not popular among the zealots of Fez.

The Moorish Government have placed military pickets throughout the town, and escorts are furnished to Europeans during their walks abroad. It would be desirable, nevertheless, that the Sultan should for a time postpone his departure from Fez. The absence of His Majesty, his Government, and his troops, immediately after an event of the character of the recent one, might, I think, possibly remove in a great measure the guarantees of security which Europeans in Fez at present possess. I am placing this point privately before His Majesty, as it is one, I would submit, which merits consideration.

The question of some compensation to Mr. Cooper's family has been mentioned to me. I would respectfully submit that in view of the prompt punishment of the criminal, under very exceptional conditions, it would bear a somewhat ungracious appearance were a formal demand of compensation to be made. At the same time, if the Sultan, as I am given to understand is the case, would be willing to grant of his own initiative some indemnity to the family, he would be acting generously and benevolently. Mr. Cooper has left, I am told, his family without means, and his Society has no widow or orphans' fund. His salary was 120*l.* a-year. I have expressed my opinion privately to His Majesty's Vice-Consul that, if his advice is asked, he might intimate that a gift of 1,000*l.* or so would not be misplaced.

I venture to hope that your Lordship will concur in my view of the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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occurrences, and notwithstandieg that the murderer took refuge in the exalted Sanctnary, our Lord commanded that he should be brought out. He was brought out and questioned as to what had induced him to commit the deed, as possibly it might have been for some reason or at somebody's instigation. He confessed he was the murderer without cause, or any one having instigated him to commit the crime. Also that nobody had any knowledge of his intention. From his appearance it would seem that his mind is deranged, and that there was no motive for it save his madness.

His Majesty commanded that he should be put down for beating with lashes. This was done before His Shereefian Majesty. Then His Majesty ordered that he should be mounted on a donkey and taken round the streets of the town, in order that others like him might refrain from committing similar acts.

Immediately following came the news of the death of the Englishman who was shot, and His Majesty ordered that the murderer be brought back from his passage round the town streets and taken to the place of execution. He was brought there and surrounded by soldiers and shot. Thereupon His Majesty's wrath was partly abated, and he commanded that a considerable number of military guards be appointed for all the principal streets of the town and the necessary instructions given to them, as your intelligent Consul, Mr. Macleod, will already have informed you. I also inform you what has occurred that you may be aware of it, and may know that His Shereefian Majesty has shown greater attention to this matter than has ever been shown by himself or his ancestors—the blessed—in similar cases. This is but proper in order to do justice where due, and to repay the special friendship which His Majesty (compliments) is certain is felt towards him by the English Government, its officers, and subjects.

I trust you will have perpetual good health, and a constant succession of happiness, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

No. 199.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 3, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 33 of the 24th ultimo. The Vice-Consul at Fez has been informed by Sultan that His Majesty will be happy, privately, to grant widow of late missionary 1,000*l.*, and promised her safe conduct to Tangier.

Some compensation His Majesty said he had been anxious to make, but was puzzled as to what amount would be suitable. The suggestion was received most gratefully by the Sultan.

Until the necessary orders have been issued for payment, the Vice-Consul proposes, and I think he is right, to defer informing the widow.

In regard to recent sad event, am I at liberty to express to Sultan your appreciation of his generosity and of his action generally.

No. 200.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 3, 1902.*

YOU may send message to Sultan as proposed in your telegram No. 34 of to-day.

It will certainly be better to defer informing widow until orders have been issued for payment of compensation.

No. 201.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 102. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 145, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo on the subject of the murder of Mr. Cooper.

I approve your action in intimating to the Sultan that his absence from Fez, so soon after the outrage, would be undesirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 202.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 105.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 140 of the 20th instant on the subject of the murder of Mr. Cooper at Fez.

In accordance with your suggestion, I have authorized you, by telegraph, to convey to the Sultan the appreciation of His Majesty's Government of the measures which he so promptly adopted on learning of the outrage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 203.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 8, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of the 1st instant. The Taza Pretender, according to news from Fez dated the 4th instant, is surrounded in a walled village, having been defeated by the Sultan's troops. No difficulty is apprehended as to his capture by the troops.

To-day the Sultan was to leave Fez to move against Berber tribes on a punitive expedition.

No. 204.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 148. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October 29, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting some information he had gathered from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in respect to the arrangements with the French authorities as to frontier matters.

The information given by the Foreign Minister practically confirms what the French Minister told me, and which I reported in my despatch No. 146 of the 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 54. Confidential.)

Sir, *Fez, October* 23, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to state that, when visiting Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman yesterday morning, I inquired whether it was true that the Moorish Government intended to establish custom-houses along the frontier, and if so, where, and what duties would be levied.

I also asked what, if any, arrangements had been made by them generally with the French on Algerian frontier affairs.

The Vizier replied that Sid Mohammed Gubbas, the Moorish Commissioner, was proceeding shortly to the frontier to establish three lines of village posts in co-operation with the French authorities, one line just inside Moorish territory, one in the mutual belt, and one inside Algeria. The territorial limits were still to be those agreed upon between the French and Moorish Governments when the Vizier was in Paris last year.

The French Government, Sid Abdelkrim went on to say, had invited them to make custom-houses all along the frontier, but after long consideration, the Moorish Government decided they were not strong enough—just now at any rate—to do so, for to establish such a preventive service as would make smuggling impossible over so very long and open a stretch of country would require more officials and soldiers than they could spare or afford, especially as the revenue from it could not be expected to be at all proportionate to the cost of the service.

The Moorish Government considered that, by way of making a beginning, and to accustom the inhabitants there, who had never before paid taxes or dues of any sort, to paying imports, they should begin by making markets at suitable spots in their own and the mutual territory, and levying there the market dues and gate tax ("mestefad" and "hafir") as now levied in those parts of Morocco effectively under the Sultan's control.

In the mutual belt there would be a French and Moorish Administrator at each market, and the revenue would be divided equally between the two Governments.

From the foregoing, the Vizier added, we would see that no change injurious to any one was contemplated, for, except at Oujdah, no customs or other dues had ever been collected on the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 205.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 149. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 30, 1902.

IN the Confidential print received by bag to-day, I notice that the French Ambassador stated to your Lordship that, in his belief, none of the Powers had as yet assented to the imposition of the new internal taxes in Morocco. His Excellency is under some misapprehension, as all the Governments, with the exception of those of France and Russia, have authorized their Representatives here to sign the Agreement with the Moorish Government as to the new taxes.

It is unfortunate that the signature of the Agreement is being thus delayed, as I fear there is now little hope that the machinery will be ready by the commencement of the new year for bringing the new project into force.

No internal taxation whatever has been levied this year, and the Moorish Government have been subsisting on the Customs revenues, which are manifestly insufficient. The old system of assessing and collecting taxes was abolished, and the Sultan did not wish to introduce the new measure till it could be applied to all alike without any distinction.

Moreover, while the revenues have thus greatly diminished, the expenses of the Treasury have largely exceeded those of previous years. I am informed that with the

abolition of the custom of officials purchasing their posts, the new plan of paying officials fixed salaries from the Treasury has been put into practice. Formerly these officials were no burden on the Exchequer, as they lived on their extortions from the people.

It will be impossible for the Moorish Government to waive internal taxation for another year; and if the assent of France and Russia is much longer delayed, the Moorish Government will perforce have to recur to the old system, with all its abuses and evils, and postpone to a more distant date the reforms which are so urgently needed, and with which some beginning had been made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 206.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 150.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 1, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 139 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving some interesting information as to the proceedings of the pretender to the Sultanate in the Taza district, which lies about seventy miles to the east of Fez.

I quite concur with the opinion expressed by Mr. MacLeod that it would not be wise for the Sultan to leave Fez at this moment.

I am informed that considerable discontent is being caused by the assembling of the large expedition which the Sultan is collecting to operate against the rebellious Berber tribes near Mequinez, as it has necessitated the enrolment of many men just at the commencement of the ploughing season. It now appears that the deputation, which arrived recently at Fez, made a submission on behalf of but a portion of the tribes, and that the general body of the tribesmen are still disaffected.

It has been pointed out to me that the operations of the Sultan's force will be rendered very difficult during the approaching rainy season, while the tribesmen, being all mounted and lightly equipped, will be less hampered.

I hear, from sources whose trustworthiness I cannot well control, that many reports, hostile to and depreciatory of the Sultan, are being circulated throughout the country—it is said through the agency of the Shereefs of Wazzan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 58.)

Sir, *Fez, October* 28, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the following particulars about the pretended "Mahor" and Sultan who has appeared near Taza in these days.

I have had the details from a merchant here who has had a lifelong acquaintance with that district, and is generally accurately informed as to the events there; and as, besides, they correspond roughly with the information the Moorish authorities have, I think they are fairly reliable.

The man's real name is Dris Ben Hamed. He is a native of the little town of "Mad Youssif" in the Zarbon mountains, and is about 35 years of age. He was for some time a servant—a soldier of Mulay Omar, Viceroy in Fez about 1894. He was always very religious, and two or three years ago began to travel as a "fakir" from tribe to tribe—going even as far as Tunis—but attracted no attention. Lately, however, he arrived in Taza, and gave his name as Jallali Ben Hamed, and said he was a Drisi Shereef of Mulai Dris, in Zarbon.

This imposture was detected by a real Drisi Shereef who chanced to be in Taza, whom he threatened to kill.

Thereafter he went to Beni Bekiton, in Riata, and, favoured by his squint and some other accidental likenesses of feature, began to give himself out as at once Mulai Mhamed (the Sultan's elder brother) and the Khalifa of the Mehdi, whom Moslems expect. He then summoned the tribes of Branes, Tsal, Howara, and Meknessa to join him.

They each sent a few men to him—more, my informant says, to watch each other than to support him.

When these, and some nondescripts who had also joined him, numbered about 200, the pretender came to Taza about three weeks ago, and, under threat of looting that defenceless place, extracted a levy of 700 dollars and eight rifles from the Kaïd and inhabitants.

He then returned to Beni Bekiton, the Taza people meanwhile informing the Court of what had happened.

The Court sent, secretly, some emissaries to arrest him by stealth, but these—some say from fear, and some say because they were bribed—have returned unsuccessful to Fez.

From the latest accounts he was again at Taza, and with his following prayed there on Friday, the 24th instant.

The Court, on receipt of this news, have dispatched Mulai-el-Kebeer (a brother of the Sultan's) with 2,000 infantry and one Gardner gun against him.

It is anticipated that his following—and the tribes—when they see the resolution of the Court, will make haste to betray him into the Government's hands, the tribes really being afraid that each one's neighbours will take advantage of such disorder as would arise, were a conflict to begin with the Government, to raid each other; but, of course, this is only conjecture so far.

The Mehdi claims to be able to do miracles, such as setting fire to places by his mere will, finding or creating grain, water, or money whenever he wishes, and the like.

As a matter of fact, he maintains his following by keeping them in continual motion during the day, and forcibly billeting them in villages at night, the inhabitants being glad to give them food to be quickly rid of them.

The whole affair, however, is more serious than the Maghzen at first admitted, and it is to be hoped the Sultan will not move from Fez until it is settled, for the pretender would then in all likelihood give out that His Majesty had done so in fear of him, and such a report (in the present somewhat restless state of this district) might just now be more readily believed than at another time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MacLEOD.

No. 207.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 152.)

Tangier, November 1, 1902.

My Lord,

THE absence of any suitable burial ground at Fez for Christians has for long been a subject of correspondence with the Moorish Government; but I am glad to be in a position to inform your Lordship that the Sultan has now granted, as a free gift to the Consular Body in that town, a site favourably and conveniently situated on some private property of his own. The Consular Body are taking steps to inclose the ground, and have expressed to the proper authorities the appreciation of His Majesty's generous donation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 209*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 13, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 36 of the 11th instant to your Lordship, I have received confidential information from the Minister of War that the Taza "Pretender" movement is far more serious than was originally anticipated by the Court.

The tribe with whom he has taken refuge refuse to surrender him, and he is still at large.

The "Pretender" has been joined by three large tribes, and it is feared by the Minister of War that the movement may spread further.

Menebhi asserts also that the "Pretender" is being supported by twenty Shereefs from Wazzan.

The Sultan has, I am informed, postponed his intended expedition against the rebellious tribes near Mequinez in consequence. His Majesty intends first to conduct operations against the "Pretender" and his following.

No. 208.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 11, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 35 of the 8th November, I have the honour to report that I have received news from Fez, dated the 5th instant, informing me that on the 4th instant troops stormed the village where the Taza Pretender had taken refuge, and captured several prisoners.

It is reported that the Pretender himself contrived to escape, although wounded, during the fight, and is being pursued to the mountains, whither he has fled.

All faith in the Pretender, it is said, will now be finally disposed of by this defeat.

The Sultan has postponed his departure from Fez until to-day, the 11th instant.

No. 209.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 12, 1902.

ON account of Governor of Tetuan refusing to release from prison some people of their tribe, this tribe near Tetuan has cut the road and stopped the traffic between that town and Tangier.

There is a panic, I am informed, among Jewish population at Tetuan.

No. 210.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 14, 1902.

IN view of the local trouble between here and Tetuan, the unsatisfactory state of affairs near Fez and Mequinez, and the possible extension of disorder and agitation to other parts of the country, although I have no wish to appear as an alarmist, I would suggest that it might be prudent to have a ship or two from the Mediterranean Fleet stationed at Gibraltar till the situation has lightened a little, as the Channel Fleet is leaving that place on the 18th instant.

It might be of advantage to have a ship or two near at hand in the event of the situation becoming worse.

No. 211.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 14, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 38 of the 13th November:

At the last moment Sultan changed his plans. On his way to Mequinez he left Fez on the 10th instant, and, under one of his uncles, he has sent an expedition of 5,000 men to operate in Taza district.

No. 212.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 108.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the information contained in your despatch No. 152 of the 1st instant, to the effect that the Sultan has granted as a free gift, to the Consular Body at Fez, a favourable and convenient site in that town for a burial ground for Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 213.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier respecting the state of affairs in Morocco.*

Sir A. Nicolson suggests, in view of the possible extension throughout the country of the local troubles between Tangier and Tetuan, and the unsatisfactory state of affairs near Fez and Mequinez, that it might be prudent to station a ship or two from the Mediterranean Squadron at Gibraltar, on the departure of the Channel fleet, until the situation has improved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 214.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 154. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, November* 6, 1902.

I RECENTLY conveyed to the Sultan, in a private and friendly manner, some doubts which I had in my mind as to the prudence of his leaving Fez at this moment, and I ventured to suggest to His Majesty whether it would not be better for him to entrust the leadership of the expedition against the disaffected Berber tribes to one of his relations or high officials on whom he could thoroughly depend. I intimated to His Majesty that I had chiefly in view the safety of the Europeans at Fez, among whom were several British subjects, and that, though I felt no uneasiness so long as the Government remained at Fez, I should not feel so confident if His Majesty and the troops were to leave the capital after but a short stay there and so soon after a recent regrettable event. The Sultan has replied in cordial terms: and has explained that, having assembled a very large expedition for the punishment of the tribes who were openly in rebellion, it would be impossible for him to disband it or not to lead it in person. Were he not to place himself at the head of it, his personal prestige would suffer. He intended to leave a strong garrison at Fez, and that I need, therefore, be under no apprehension as to the safety of the European residents.

His Majesty added that he expected to effect the capture very shortly of the individual in the Taza district who had been giving some trouble recently.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

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* No. 210.

No. 215.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 155.)

My Lord, *Tangier, Nouember* 8, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting on the impression which has been produced among the natives by the withdrawal from sanctuary and execution of the murderer of the late Mr. Cooper. Reports which have been furnished me from the interior and other places confirm what Mr. Maclean states. The news which I receive from Fez is that all continues to be quiet and tranquil in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 83.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November* 2, 1902.

THE first news of the recent tragedy in Fez was received here about the 21st ultimo, and now that a certain period has elapsed since the event, and the true facts are known, one is able to judge of the impression it has made on the Moors. I believe that it has strengthened the Sultan's position in the country. The Moors generally dislike the incident; their breath was taken away by the promptness with which the punishment followed on the crime; but all admit that the execution of the murderer was a just act.

There is a feeling that on account of the holiness of the sanctuary, the Mosque of Mulay Edriss, in which the murderer took refuge, His Majesty might have endeavoured to save him from suffering the extreme penalty.

Moors, however, think that whatever the enormity of the crime, a ruler over Moslemeen should take the part of a Moslem against a Christian.

Had the Sultan acted according to their views and allowed the criminal an opportunity to escape, he would have acquired a certain amount of affection from a section of his subjects, but it is better that His Majesty should acquire, as he has done, a reputation for even-handed justice.

The custom has been that when a criminal takes sanctuary, guards are placed in its outlets, and he remained there till driven forth by hunger. This gives time for intercession, and possibly an arrangement.

There were always numerous intercessors, as a Moor believes that by an act of mediation he acquires merit in the eyes of the patron Saint of the sanctuary.

Moors tell me they have never previously heard of a criminal being seized within the precincts of the Mosque of Mulay Edriss, but I have not a doubt that the action of the Sultan was politic, as it has increased his prestige as a Shereef, and demonstrated that he knows himself to be the supreme Head of his religion in Morocco, and is not afraid to exercise his superior authority over all its institutions.

The Moors have taken the lesson to heart, and it is fortunate that it should have been given at Fez, where it was needed more than in other places.

The Sultan, as Shereef, gains the more prestige as the sanctuary in which he properly exercised his authority derives its sanctity from being the shrine of Mulay Edriss, the son of the founder of a dynasty which claimed to be more directly descended from the Prophet than that to which His Majesty belongs.

In conclusion, I should state that I have heard no word of sympathy from the Moors for the victim or the culprit in the tragedy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 216.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 8, 1902.*

I TOOK an opportunity to-day of inquiring of the French Minister when he considered he would be authorized to sign the Agreement with the Moorish Government in respect to the new rural taxes. M. Saint-René Taillandier replied that he had no idea when he was likely to receive the necessary instructions, and added that he had recently sent a detailed report to his Government on the general situation in Morocco, which they would probably take into consideration in connection with the question to which I had referred.

I observed to my French colleague that the Moorish Government had collected no internal taxes at all this year, and that it seemed to me that it would be impossible for them to allow another year to elapse without such revenues. The Moorish Government might then be forced to recur to the old system, with all its abuses and evils, and that this would be most regrettable. M. Saint-René Taillandier did not reply to these points, but changed the conversation.

I may mention that the Russian Minister informed me that he was prepared to sign the Agreement as soon as the Representatives of all the Powers were in a position to do so.

In regard to the general situation of the country, I gathered from the French Minister that he considered it to be most unsatisfactory. He intimated that there was general discontent; that the Sultan was proceeding direct to Rabat and would avoid meeting the rebellious tribes near Mequinez; that the force which His Majesty had at his disposal was very small; that Fez itself was in a disturbed condition; and that the Taza pretender was still at large, and possibly had a considerable following.

I told my French colleague that my information was not quite in accord with that which he had received. The south of Morocco was, so I was informed, perfectly tranquil; this he admitted, and said he did not refer to the south. I continued that I knew that the Sultan intended to inflict a severe punishment on the rebellious tribes before he proceeded to Rabat, and that I was told that the forces His Majesty proposed to employ for that purpose were more numerous than on any other previous occasion. Fez, I added, appeared quite tranquil, and His Majesty intended to leave a strong garrison there to preserve order. From information which I had just received, it would seem that the Taza pretender's adherents had been defeated and that he himself was surrounded in a walled village, where his capture was hourly expected.

I venture to report the above conversation to your Lordship, as I fear the French Minister may have sent a very gloomy report to his Government, and that their acquiescence in the fiscal projects of the Sultan may thereby be still further retarded.

I am informed that within the last few days contingents have been arriving more rapidly at Fez, and that the Sultan's force, though somewhat heterogeneous, is now amply sufficient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 217.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 8, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 154 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reporting the results of the expedition dispatched against the pretender in the Taza district. I trust to receive shortly the news of the capture of the above-mentioned individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Fez, November 4, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following news which reached the Sultan this afternoon, and which His Majesty communicated to those present with him including myself.

Bu Hamara attacked Mulai-el-Kebir's camp yesterday morning, was repulsed, pursued, and driven into a Riata Kasbah or small walled village (name and location not given as yet), where he is now entirely surrounded, and the troops are confident of securing him.

The Sultan added that this result had been largely due to some 400 Hiana mounted tribesmen, who had co-operated with Mulai-el-Kebir, and who cut off Bu Hamara's retreat.

This news, however, had as yet been brought only verbally by express messengers, who brought also a request for guns to demolish the Kasbah in case further resistance should be made.

The Sultan told us also that he meant to leave Fez on Saturday the 8th instant—subject (we inferred) to the Bu Hamara affair being ended, for His Majesty expected to hear to-morrow or the next day of his being a prisoner.

Some 400 Beni M'gild horsemen joined the Sultan's camp here to-day presumably having come as hostages for their tribe's co-operation in the ensuing campaign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 218.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 8, 1902.*

THE Minister for Finance informed His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez on the 4th instant that he had been instructed by the Sultan to pay to Mrs. Cooper, the widow of the late missionary, a sum of 1,000*l.* as a token of His Majesty's sympathy in her great loss; and his Excellency requested Mr. MacLeod to inform Mrs. Cooper of the above, and to ask her to come on the following day to receive the money.

Mr. MacLeod has, therefore, told Mrs. Cooper of what has passed, and she has expressed her sincere gratitude for the Sultan's generosity. She stated that she did not wish to leave Fez just at present; and she was informed that whenever she desired to do so transport animals and an escort would be provided for her.

I may add that I have conveyed to the Sultan, in suitable terms, your Lordship's appreciation of His Majesty's generosity, and also of the manner in which he has acted throughout the recent regrettable event.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 219.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November 17, 1902.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant on the situation in Morocco, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that His Majesty's ships "Ramillies" and "Aboukir" left Malta yesterday and are due at Gibraltar about the 19th instant, in accordance with the suggestion of Sir A. Nicolson, that one or two ships of the Mediterranean squadron should be stationed at Gibraltar when the Channel Squadron leaves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR

No. 220.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1902.

IN accordance with the suggestion contained in your telegram No. 39 of the 14th instant, His Majesty's ships "Ramillies" and "Aboukir" should arrive at Gibraltar from Malta to-day.

No. 221.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 20, 1902.

WITH reference to Railway Concession.

Kaïd Maclean urges me to give him instructions as to what he should suggest to Sultan in regard to division of lines between us, France and Germany; he is anxious to leave for the Court very shortly. The easiest, most profitable, and cheapest in construction would, I think, be the line from Mazagan to Marakesh, and would be perhaps the best one to secure on lines sketched in draft contract which Kaïd Maclean has brought with him. But without your Lordship's instructions I am unwilling to give any suggestions as to other lines.

I think that to concede either to France or Germany any line having a terminus in Tangier would be unadvisable. Would there be any objection to allow Sultan to let French construct a line from Fez to Algerian frontier, and to suggest to him to offer to Germany a line from Laraiche to Fez or from Dar-el-Baida to Fez?

The Sultan, Kaïd Maclean is positive, would not agree even in principle to our proposed line unless Kaïd Maclean were authorized to indicate lines which the Sultan might offer to the other two Powers, and that the Sultan would apply to Germany were he unable to do this. Owing to Kaïd Maclean's stay here being very limited, as Sultan requires him at once at Court, I must explain the above by telegraph.

No. 222.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 21, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 41 of yesterday:

I would suggest that Kaïd Maclean should proceed to the Court, as questions raised can hardly, I presume, be decided in a day or two.

He could suggest that an eventual British railway from Mazagan to Morocco City might be sanctioned in principle by Sultan. Maclean could reply in sense of your Lordship's Memorandum if His Majesty inquires as to other lines, and state that in Sultan's own interests matters require very careful study.

It is possible Sultan will be satisfied with above, as he may not be in exactly the same frame of mind as he was two months ago.

On further consideration I see objections to suggestions I made yesterday, as districts through which other lines are to run is a large question.

Maclean can leave at once if you will kindly inform me whether you approve of above course.

No. 223.

Foreign Office to Mr. J. C. H. Lepper.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 21, 1902.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 24th ultimo respecting the murder of the late Mr. David Cooper at Fez, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, in a despatch dated the 8th instant, reports that the Sultan of Morocco has instructed his Minister of Finance to pay to Mrs. Cooper, the widow of the late missionary, a sum of 1,000*l.* as a token of his sympathy in her great loss.

Mrs. Cooper has expressed her sincere gratitude for the Sultan's generosity, and has stated that she does not wish to leave Fez just at present. She has been informed that whenever she desires to do so, transport animals and an escort will be provided for her.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 224.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 14, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Beni Ider tribe, whose habitat is between Tangier and Tetuan, have broken out in rebellion, and stopped traffic between the two above-mentioned places.

The cause of this action on the part of the Beni Ider tribe is, I am told, the refusal of the Governor of Tetuan to release some of their tribesmen whom he had imprisoned. The Governor went out of Tetuan two days ago with a hastily-armed force to coerce the refractory tribe into submission.

Indecisive skirmishing ensued, in which it is said that three or four individuals were killed or wounded, and that the combat came to an end owing to want of ammunition on both sides.

A Moorish Government steamer has left here with supplies of ammunition to the Governor.

This outbreak, coming immediately after a disturbance of some villages close by Tangier, in which the head official of the Governor of Tangier was shamefully ill-treated, shows that a spirit of lawlessness and disregard of authority are making themselves manifest; and I trust that when the Sultan has terminated the serious difficulties which are threatening his authority both in the Taza district and near Mequinez, he will take measures for re-establishing order and security in this neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 225.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 161. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 14, 1902.

I RECEIVED yesterday a confidential communication from Cid-el-Menebhi, the Minister of War, informing me that news had just been received from Mulay-el-Kebir, who was commanding the expedition against Bu Hamara in the Taza district, to the effect that the latter had escaped into the Hiaina district, and that the tribes with whom he had taken refuge declined to surrender him. El Menebhi added that other tribes had joined Bu Hamara, and that he feared that the movement in favour of that individual was spreading. He further stated that twenty Shereefs from Wazzan had also espoused the cause of Bu Hamara. In these circumstances, El Menebhi informed

me, the Sultan had decided to postpone his expedition against the rebellious tribes near Mequinez, and concentrate his attention on crushing the movement in the Taza and Hiaina districts.

It further appears that the expedition under Mulay-el-Kebir narrowly escaped a disaster. The camp was suddenly attacked at daybreak from four sides by the followers of Bu Hamara, and in the confusion which ensued the camp was nearly rushed. Mulay-el-Kebir appears to have succeeded in re-establishing order, and to have driven off his assailants and made several prisoners, besides capturing the village where Bu Hamara had been.

The victory does not seem to have been so complete or so facile as the Moorish Government originally allowed it to be understood.

It is manifestly prudent on the part of the Sultan to take immediate steps towards finally defeating what is evidently a serious movement, and to postpone the expedition against the Berber tribes near Mequinez. His Majesty could not proceed against the latter and leave Bu Hamara with his adherents on his rear and the road to Fez open.

It is to be hoped that the expedition which the Sultan will lead against Bu Hamara will be numerous and well-equipped, as the country where it will have to operate is a very difficult one, the season is unpropitious and the tribes powerful and warlike. The presence of the Sultan himself will, however, have a good moral effect. I trust the Sultan will leave a considerable force at Fez, as if his expedition meets with any serious difficulties or mishaps, the situation will at once become grave.

I have not yet been able to ascertain clearly what exactly is the objective of Bu Hamara—whether he is aiming at the throne, which seems hardly probable in view of his origin, or whether he is asserting his claim as the Khalifa of the coming Mahdi, and preaching war against the Sultan and his Government. I trust to obtain some trustworthy information on these points. I have also requested some confirmation of the report communicated by El Menebhi that some Wazzan Shereefs are enlisted in the cause of Bu Hamara.

The participation of these Shereefs would be a serious matter, and would incline me to suspect that the movement might be directed to the deposition of the Sultan and the installation of his brother, Mulay Mohammed, in his place. In any case, a speedy and decisive victory of the Sultan's forces is of the greatest importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 226.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 16, 1902.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 161 of the 14th instant, I have received later intelligence from Fez to the effect that the Sultan suddenly altered his plans, and decided to proceed to Mequinez and dispatch his uncle, Muley Amrani, against the tribes who were reported to be supporting Bu Hamara. The reason given by Cid-el-Menebhi to my informant for this alteration in the programme was that His Majesty had ascertained that the roads were very difficult in the district where operations would have to be conducted. This appears to be a somewhat futile reason, and is probably not the true one. It was reported in Court circles on the 9th instant that Bu Hamara had fled to Algeria. It would be well to await confirmation of this report, which is scarcely in accordance with the information furnished to my informant by the Minister of War on the preceding day.

The Sultan left Fez on the morning of the 10th instant, and encamped at a place some 9 miles distant, where, it is said, he will remain for two or three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 227.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 435.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 21, 1902.

THIS morning's papers announced that a French cruiser had sailed from Toulon for Moroccan waters, and that two other cruisers had been ordered to be in readiness to start for the same destination.

I have the honour to inclose copies of a communication just published in the "Temps" to the effect that M. Delcassé informed the Council of Ministers that the disturbances on the coast of Morocco may be considered to be at an end, but that, nevertheless, with a view to providing in case of need for the protection of French nationals, the cruiser "Du Chayla" has been dispatched to the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Extract from the "Temps" of November 22, 1902.

LE Conseil des Ministres s'est réuni ce matin à l'Élysée sous la présidence de M. Loubet.

La séance, qui a été très courte, a été consacrée à l'expédition des affaires en cours.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a entretenu le Conseil des troubles qui se sont produits sur la côte Marocaine de la Méditerranée. Les derniers renseignements font savoir que ces troubles peuvent être considérés comme terminés.

Néanmoins, des mesures ont été prises pour assurer, le cas échéant, la protection de nos nationaux. C'est dans ce but que le croiseur "Du Chayla" a été envoyé au Maroc.

No. 228.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1902.

I SEE no objection to the course proposed in your telegram No. 42 of the 21st instant.

Please impress on Kaïd Maclean that the Sultan should not grant any definite Concession for a railway until some competent engineer has drawn up a report as to its probable cost and earning powers. Further, Kaïd Maclean should bear in mind that as soon as it comes to the ears of the French Government that the Sultan is considering the question of a British railway, they will press him to grant a similar Concession to a French Company, and His Majesty should therefore be prepared with some satisfactory proposal to make to them. This would obviate any impression that England is either seeking or obtaining exclusive privileges, and would, I understand, be in accordance with the policy the Sultan desires to follow.

No. 229.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 24, 1902.

RAILWAYS in Morocco.

Your telegram No. 41 of the 20th instant.

The new proposal does not, in the opinion of the Director-General of Military Intelligence, compare favourably with the former: both, however, must be very carefully examined. Till that has been done, I am unwilling to give a definite opinion with regard to either of them. The suggestion of a French line to run from the Algerian frontier towards Fez is, however, open to obvious objections.

No. 230.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 25, 1902.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 23 of the 24th November:

I have told Kaïd Maclean, who left here yesterday, that the Sultan should understand that it is impossible to give advice as to the allocation of lines to Germany and France till the question has been thoroughly examined, and that this cannot be done in a hurry. Kaïd Maclean can explain that he was anxious to hasten to the Court in order to deliver other messages, as he fears the Sultan will reprove him for having left England before the matter was finally settled.

Without specifying any Company or signing any contract, he will endeavour to obtain sanction of Sultan to a British line from Mazagan to Marakesh.

Before even entering into negotiations with any Company, I have told Sultan he should have district thoroughly examined by an expert. Full details will be found in a despatch which goes by bag to-day.

No. 231.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 25, 1902.*

I HAVE received a message from His Shereefian Majesty, informing me that there is no further cause for uneasiness with regard to the Taza district, news from that quarter being most satisfactory. The Pretender's case is now considered hopeless, and I hear from Fez that the tribe with whom he has taken refuge will probably surrender him. Near Mequinez the tribes have been severely punished by the Sultan's troops. His Majesty left Mequinez on the 19th, and will attack Zemmours, who seem inclined to resist.

Loyal tribesmen are to attack from the north, while the Sultan is advancing with 10,000 men.

No. 232.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 19, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 160 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, stating that the men who had been detained by the Beni Ider tribe had been released and allowed to return to their homes. It is not quite clear yet whether the Beni Ider intend to remain peaceful and to permit free traffic on the Tangier–Tetuan road.

I may mention that no British men-of-war were sent to the Port of Tetuan as was reported in the newspapers. The very few British subjects resident at Tetuan were in no danger, and had affairs become more serious a vessel could have been detached from Gibraltar in a very short time.

The Governor of Ceuta dispatched a merchant-vessel or two to convey away any inhabitants of Tetuan who might desire to leave, and I believe a few availed themselves of the opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Tetuan, November 18, 1902.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 60 of the 15th instant, I now have the honour to report that on the 15th instant, about 9 P.M., all the captured Jews and their animals arrived here, having been released by the Beni Ider.

It is commonly stated that the people of Beni Housmar effected this release by guaranteeing that they would obtain the release of the Idris that are in prison before the 19th instant, and that the Governor refuses to release the prisoners. This is denied by others who ought to know. I cannot help thinking there is some good foundation for the report.

As far as I can make out, it is not the intention to do anything more now till a reply is received to the letter sent to the Sultan on the 12th instant, unless the Beni Ider renew hostilities.

I understand that in the letter to the Sultan, the Governor, besides reporting what had occurred and asking for instructions, asked for a supply of rifles to be sent. It is to be hoped that the Sultan will grant this supply of rifles, as it would have very much strengthened the position last week if the Governor had been able to supply the townspeople with better arms.

It will be useless, however, to send rifles unless at the same time some one is made responsible for their being kept in order.

I am informed that the Jews have thanked the Governor for his actions, both the Jewish community and the Jew Club making him presents. Late yesterday afternoon a small party of twelve or fifteen men of the Beni Hassan tribe arrived to confer with the Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 233.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 164. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 21, 1902.*

KAÏD SIR H. MACLEAN has inquired of me what steps he should recommend the Sultan to take, in the extremely probable event of His Majesty requesting advice, in order to expedite the assent of the French Government to the project of the new rural taxes. He suggested that the Sultan might write a note to all the Powers drawing their attention to the extremely difficult position in which the Moorish Treasury was placed, and appealing to the Powers to signify their assent to the new scheme without further delay.

I told Kaïd Maclean that in my opinion it would be better, in the first instance, for the Sultan to cause a letter to be written to the French Minister, stating that His Majesty had learnt from his Commissioner, Cid Benasser Ghannam, that the consent of the French and Russian Governments was alone outstanding, and begging the Minister to urge his Government to send a speedy reply. The Sultan could, at the same time, explain the grave financial embarrassments in which he was being placed by his inability to put the new taxation scheme into force.

If the French Minister's reply was unsatisfactory, the question of appealing to all the Powers might possibly then be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 234.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 22, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan entered Mequinez on the morning of the 17th instant, and that he intended to march immediately against the Zemmour tribe, who apparently have retired into the mountains with their wives and families. His Majesty told my informant that he would have some trouble in dislodging them, as the country was very difficult; but he proposed to attack them from two sides with his infantry and machine guns.

His Majesty was determined to inflict a severe punishment on the Zemmour tribe, and it is to be hoped that his operations will be successful.

There has been of late no definite news from the Taza district. Bu Hamara has not yet been captured, and his whereabouts is unknown. At the same time, the tribes do not appear to have offered any opposition to the expedition which the Sultan dispatched against them, and they appear to have deserted the cause of the Pretender.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 235.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 21, 1902.

KAÏD SIR H. MACLEAN has been speaking to me on the subject of railways in Morocco, and has expressed to me his firm conviction that unless he is in a position to lay before the Sultan a definite railway programme, allocating to Great Britain, France, and Germany their respective spheres of operation, His Majesty will consider that his mission to England has failed in a very important particular, and will therefore address himself to Germany, or act in some manner which might be inconvenient.

Kaïd Maclean was further of opinion that the Sultan would be disinclined to sanction, even in principle, a British railway from Mazagan to Marrakesh, unless he received some definite guidance in respect to the lines to be conceded to French and German enterprise.

It seems to me that the Sultan should not be too hasty in initiating extensive railway enterprises, although I am fully aware of the great benefits which railways would bring to the country, and indeed, that any substantial development is impossible without them.

But the question of giving advice to the Sultan as to the distribution among the three countries of certain lines is one which requires very careful consideration, and it seems presumptuous on my part to mention to your Lordship the importance of the subject. I have told Kaïd Maclean that not only commercial and financial, but political and strategical considerations have to be taken into account, and these are matters which cannot be decided off-hand.

In regard to the attitude of the Sultan's mind on the subject, it was, I observed, quite possible that it had been modified during the two months since Kaïd Maclean had left the Court; and that when His Majesty had received the reassuring, and, I trusted, comforting messages, of which he was the bearer, he would not be so imperative in his demands. His Majesty would, I think, be convinced that it was in his own interests that the question of the allocation of railways should be carefully considered before any advice was given. These points I desired Kaïd Maclean to explain to the Sultan from me.

With respect to the possibility of the Sultan applying elsewhere, and offering the others what he was desirous, apparently on conditions, to grant to us, I did not think that it would require much persuasion to show His Majesty that this would be an exceedingly foolish procedure on his part. I understand that the Sultan was prepared, and indeed anxious, to grant a Railway Concession to English enterprise, if we gave him advice as to what he would necessarily have to accord to other Powers. This advice was doubtless under consideration, and if Kaïd Maclean was of opinion (and his opinion on such points was undoubtedly of value), that in view of the shifting moods and uncertainties inherent

in Oriental Courts, it would be prudent to secure at this moment some promise or engagement that a certain railway line should be, if I may so express myself, "ear-marked" for British enterprise, I saw no objection to endeavouring to obtain the sanction of the Sultan to what would be undoubtedly the most profitable line, namely, that between Mazagan and Marrakesh—at the same time, it would not be right to bind the Sultan to an engagement to any definite Company, or to induce him to attach his signature to any detailed Concession, but it might be well to procure his consent to a document embodying those general terms on which, I understand, Kaïd Maclean had been authorized by the Sultan to negotiate. I beg leave to inclose copy of a document which I have given to Kaïd Maclean, and to which he may obtain the Sultan's seal. He should then return the document to me, and I could retain it till the moment arrived for taking action on it; at the same time, I strongly advised the Sultan that when that moment was reached, he should first have the district examined by a railway expert, and I should be glad to procure him the services of one, and that he should await a report and estimate of the expert before negotiating a contract. Further, that before signing any contract, His Majesty should submit its terms to his railway expert, to be sure that he could accept it with safety; and, moreover, His Majesty should appoint an expert who should superintend the works as they were in progress, and see that all the specifications were fully complied with.

I trust your Lordship will approve of the above course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Memorandum given to Kaïd Maclean by Sir A. Nicolson.

THE Sultan wishes to obtain a loan of 1,000,000*l.* in England and is willing to offer following terms:—

1. The loan is for a railway from Mazagan to Marrakesh and to improve the harbour of Mazagan so as to render the shipment and disembarking of goods quick, safe, and efficacious.

2. The Sultan would guarantee an interest of 4 per cent. per annum on the loan, but His Majesty would pay no interest until the railway is completed: and until it is completed the Company should pay the interest out of the proceeds of the loan.

3. The capital and interest of the loan would be a first charge upon the railway and its equipment and the other works comprised in the undertaking.

4. The Company should account to and pay the Sultan 25 per cent. of all profits made from working the railway.

5. The Sultan would give the Company authority to work the railway for twenty-five years; at the expiration of which term the Sultan would repay to the Company all expenses disbursed on the construction of the railway and harbour works up to 1,000,000*l.*, and take over the railway and harbour works from the Company.

6. During the above-mentioned twenty-five years the Sultan would not build or permit to be built any other railway in the zone described below, or any other railway competing with that authorized and built under the Concession, the intention being that the rights granted hereby are exclusive, and no other person, Company, or Association shall be given or have rights or authorities during the currency of the Concession in any way competing with those granted the Company hereby.

7. The zone referred to is all the territory situated south of the river (called at Marrakesh Wad-el-Abeed and el-Morbeia) which passes by Maskine through Chaouia to Azimour, including also the territory between that river and its northern branch which runs through Tadla.

8. Should the Government wish to develop the mineral resources in the above-mentioned zone the Company is to be exclusively entitled to prospect for, work, extract and realize them so long as the right to work the railway lasts. The cost (plus a fair commission) of such prospecting, working, and developing will be debited to the proceeds of the loan as in the case of the railway, and all profits will be divided and dealt with in the same manner as the profits on working the railway.

No. 236.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 1, 1902.

IT would appear from information I have received through His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Governor of Fez, that the Pretender is not the simple individual originally reported, but a Shereef; he is, some reports assert, the younger brother of the late Sultan.

In any case, the tribe with whom he has taken refuge, though much pressed, refuse to surrender him, and the Sultan's forces sent against him are, according to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, insufficient to take him by force; and during the winter nothing can be done.

The Government troops, his Excellency thinks, are strong enough to prevent spread of movement, or any advance of the Pretender's.

In view of above information the optimistic reports made to the Sultan, and which I have communicated, scarcely seem justified.

No. 237.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 26, 1902.

I RECEIVED yesterday a message from the Sultan informing me that he had received very satisfactory news from the Taza district, and that no more importance need be attached to the agitation caused by Bu Hamara, who was still a fugitive and abandoned by his former adherents. His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that Bu Hamara is at Ahl Tahir, a place close to Taza, where he has taken refuge with that sept of the Ghiata tribe. Mr. MacLeod states that the Pretender, who originally asserted that he was Muley Mohammed, the Sultan's brother, and also the Khalifa of the Mahdi, is now generally recognized as an impostor, and that it is expected that the Ahl Tahir people, if he is really amongst them, will eventually surrender him. In any case his cause appears to be a thoroughly discredited and lost one.

From letters which I have received from Mequinez dated the 18th instant, it would appear that on the 17th instant the Sultan's troops punished the Geruan tribes in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. These tribes have been for months looting and destroying farms in the immediate neighbourhood of Mequinez, and robbing caravans. Their villages have been destroyed and many prisoners taken. On the 18th instant some bodies of tribal horsemen were sent out to reconnoitre in the Zemmur country. They appear to have retreated in some haste, having met with a strong force of Zemmurs of 2,000 mounted men, besides footmen, who inflicted some casualties among them.

On the 19th instant the Sultan was to advance against the Zemmur tribes; His Majesty was taking with him 5,000 "Askaris," or infantry soldiers, and 5,000 to 7,000 well mounted and well armed tribesmen, besides a few machine guns. A body of 500 infantry, with two machine guns, has been sent to co-operate with the loyal Beni Hassan tribes, who are to attack the Zemmurs from the north.

The situation at Tetuan appears to be still unsettled. The reports I received to-day are not very clear, and are somewhat conflicting. The Beni Ider released the captive muleteers, apparently on the understanding that their tribesmen should be liberated from prison. This concession the Governor has declined to grant, and the attitude of the Beni Ider is consequently not conciliatory. I have hitherto been unable to ascertain whether the Beni Ider contemplate further hostile action, and whether they will secure the co-operation of other hostile tribes. In any case the road between Tangier and Tetuan still remains practically closed, as the muleteers are afraid to undertake the journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 238.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 122. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 166, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, relative to your communications with Sir H. Maclean on the question of railways in Morocco.

I concur in the views which you expressed to Kaïd Maclean on the subject, and I approve the terms of the paper which you have given to him as embodying the general terms on which he had been authorized by the Sultan to negotiate, and to which he might endeavour to obtain His Majesty's seal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 239.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 7.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 7, 1902.

VICE-CONSUL has been informed by Governor of Fez that he had received a letter from Commander of expedition against Pretender, reporting a defeat from the latter's adherents. Urgent messages were sent to the Sultan for reinforcements. During the action it appears a loyal tribe deserted to the Pretender, and this caused a severe repulse of the forces of the Sultan, who were advancing on Taza which is at present in the hands of the enemy. The above took place on the 30th ultimo.

No. 240.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit some extracts from two letters which I have received from Dr. Verdon, giving an interesting account of the movements of the Sultan's expedition.

It is to be hoped that the arrival of Kaïd Sir H. Maclean will conduce to better discipline being introduced into the force, as the intertribal dissensions among the Sultan's troops appear to occasion more casualties than are inflicted by the hostile tribes.

I trust that His Majesty will not content himself with a march through the disturbed districts, as, unless a severe punishment is inflicted, no lasting effect will be produced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Dr. E. S. Verdon to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *The Camp, Wad-el-Kel* [*undated*].

YESTERDAY we marched out to this camping ground, about one hour and a-half march from Mequinez, south of the town, and on the border of the Zemour country.

The River El Kel is 1 mile to the south; we shall cross it to-morrow I am told. It was at this river that the tribesmen, sent out from the camp at Mequinez, met with considerable resistance, and had to retire.

After the camp was pitched yesterday, the Sultan marched with the column in close formation to the north branch of the river. Some mounted Berbers were to be seen on the south bank.

The column halted, the artillery and Maxims were sent to the front, and flanking parties of mounted tribesmen were sent out on each flank.

The Sultan gave the commands himself, and rode about with the Minister of War freely among his soldiers.

The men were most enthusiastic, and were delighted to see him taking the command.

The Ahda regiment crossed the river with some mounted tribesmen; the latter only got into touch with the Berbers; one of the latter was killed, and one of our tribesmen was shot in the leg. The Berbers fled, and the troops returned to camp.

This morning a quantity of buried barley, wheat, &c., was discovered by the askaris of Dukalla and Ahda, and a free fight took place between the two regiments, or rather parts of them, both sides firing at each other with their rifles. The Basha of New Fez, and the Khalifa of the Minister of War, were sent with mounted "Mahazanees" to stop the fighting, and took several of the askaris prisoners; many of the others fled to the country towards Mequinez.

The Sultan has quite spoilt the Dukalla men by making them his night guard at Fez, and excusing them from all drill. The Ahda are new men, who joined us at Fez. Both these regiments, as also the Chornaia, who have been quartered at Mequinez for some time, are devoid of any discipline, and will not obey their own Kaïds. The Sultan is really to blame for the bad state of his soldiers; he is jealous of Menebhi, and will not allow him or Kaïd Maclean a sufficiently firm hand with the troops.

From what I hear, the Sultan showed some skill and knowledge of tactics in the managing of the army yesterday.

I am only afraid that the Sultan may be content to march through the Zemour country, burning the villages, and meeting with little or no opposition.

He talks of being in Rabat in fifteen days, and I am sure if the Zemour people are to be really and effectively punished, it cannot be done in fifteen days.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Dr. E. S. Verdon to Sir A. Nicolson.

The Camp, 6 miles west of Mequinez, November 23, 1902.

(Extract.)

MY last letter was from Wad-el-Kel. We left that camping ground this morning and marched for one hour along the north bank of the river into the Geruan country. We are within 6 miles of Mequinez. The Geruan people sent a message to the Court yesterday asking for pardon. It is said that the Zemours refused to allow the Geruan people to take refuge in their country. The Geruan tribe were the chief offenders in the raid on Mequinez, and it would be a good thing for the Government if they could deal with the two tribes separately.

We are now marching in the direction of the Geruan country, with Mequinez on our right, and Zemour on our left. Large bodies of tribesmen are in advance, following the two banks of the river.

On Friday there was constant fighting between bodies of "Askaris" in the camp and I hear seven were killed and many wounded. Menebhi told me he had given orders for the cartridges to be taken from the Chouga and Dukalla regiments, and that his men had been flogging soldiers the whole day. Some soldiers fired on the Beni M-tir tribe, who were bringing in grain and other loot. Two of the tribesmen were killed, but Kaïd Arka, of Beni M-tir, behaved very well and forbad his men to return the fire. The Sultan sent for Kaïd Arka and said that he would at once compensate the tribe, and that he regarded the Beni M-tir as one of his best tribes as they had behaved so well. The Government had great difficulty in getting the Beni M-tir to join the M'Halla from the first, as they are a lawless people and much given to cutting the road to Fez.

400 men from Beni Hassan joined the camp yesterday, and to-day 200 men from Misfuia and Marakash districts joined. They are all well mounted.

The Italian factory rifles have not proved a success. The Sultan told us yesterday that out of 3,000 served out 1,000 were worthless, that several rifles had exploded, and that one man had been killed by the bursting of an Italian rifle. Kaïd Maclean tested some sample rifles sent from the Fez factory to Marakesh and reported that they were of very inferior quality; the powder comes out of the lock in the face of the man firing; the cartridges are also very bad.

No. 241.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 1, 1902.

I RECEIVED this morning from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez some information regarding the "Pretender," commonly called Bu Hamara, which would tend to the belief that the latter was not merely the simple religious fanatic and imposter as was generally supposed. Mr. MacLeod reports that the Commander of the Sultan's forces in the Taza district held a Conference on the 20th ultimo with nine Chiefs of the Ghiata (Riata) tribe and offered the latter a large sum of money and other gifts if they would surrender Bu Hamara.

The Ghiata Chiefs declined to give him up, stating that he was a Shereef and not the individual that the Moorish Government had assumed him to be. The Chiefs asserted that the Moorish Government had confused the "Pretender" with his scribe, and that the former was in reality Sidi Mehmed, a younger brother of the late Sultan, Mulay Hassan.

The Commander of the Sultan's forces then threatened to seize the "Pretender" by force, but the Ghiata Chiefs defied him to do so, and the Conference broke up.

Mr. MacLeod visited the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 25th ultimo, and received confirmation of the above report; but his Excellency said that he was unaware that the late Sultan had a brother called Sidi Mehmed. As His late Majesty had some 300 brothers and sisters it is possible that the names of all are not generally known. His Excellency added that he considered it probable that the "Pretender" was a Shereef and a collateral of the present dynasty; and to his mind, were he the simple individual originally supposed, the Ghiata Chiefs would not have so positively refused to surrender him.

His Excellency further said that the Sultan would, he thought, be obliged either to obtain his surrender under a promise to treat him well and to create him a State pensioner, or seize him by force. Were the latter course decided upon, no measures could be taken during the winter, and His Majesty would in any case be obliged to send a much larger force than was at present in the Taza district.

Mr. MacLeod subsequently saw the Governor of Fez, who said that according to his information the "Pretender" was a Shereef named Mehmed Ben Hassan-al-Alowi, and that he comes from Mdaghra, a district between Ait Izdeg and Tafilelt. He added that the "Pretender" was informing his adherents that he expected shortly to be joined by a certain Wold-el-Habeel, a Governor of the Senassen tribe near Oujdah, who has of late, the Governor remarked, been disloyal, declining to visit the Court and conducting himself in an independent manner.

I think it is possible to disentangle a few probable facts from the above information:—

1. That the "Pretender" is not the simple fanatic or imposter originally supposed.

2. That he is a Shereef of some importance.

3. That the Sultan's troops in the Taza district evidently hesitate to attack his protectors: though, as the Foreign Minister remarked, they are possibly strong enough to prevent the "Pretender" from advancing on Fez or taking any active movement.

4. That the information furnished to the Sultan in regard to the "Pretender" has not been accurate.

The future development of the question will be interesting to watch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 242.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord Marquess, *Madrid, November* 29, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that both to-day and the last time I called at the Foreign Office the Duke of Almódovar spoke to me at some length with regard to the state of affairs in Morocco.

He is evidently anxious about the recent troubles, and is inclined to think that they are more serious than they appear. He told me that he attached no great importance to the occurrences on the coast, but that he feared the uneasy, if not rebellious, feeling which seemed to exist in the interior of the country was a more dangerous matter. His information was to the effect that the tribes were beginning to show a strong dislike of the reforming tendencies of the Sultan; and I gathered that he was disposed to attribute those tendencies in part at least to English influence. He dwelt upon the danger of pressing reforms in a conservative and fanatical country, which every Mahommedan country must be.

I explained to his Excellency that for various reasons the British Government was probably better acquainted with Mahommedan feeling in this respect than any other Government in the world; and I assured him that your Lordship was fully alive to the importance of discouraging any action on the Sultan's part which could possibly lead to a disturbance of the *status quo*.

The Duke of Almódovar seemed somewhat relieved by what I said, but he repeated to me more than once that Spain being so near to Morocco, and having so much to do with it, was very specially interested in the maintenance of peace.

It is clear that he is not easy on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

No. 243.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 8, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 46 of yesterday:

I have received a subsequent letter from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez stating that news received from Governor was confirmed by Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Pretender, his Excellency said, had expelled the Governor and imprisoned the Kadi and was installed at Taza. In view of the recent repulse, I am informed that the Sultan intends to remain at Mequinez, and large reinforcements are to be dispatched into Taza district.

The state of affairs is not at all satisfactory.

No. 244.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 12, 1902.

IN letter dated 1st instant Kaïd Maclean reports his arrival at Sultan's camp. Great delay to letter *en route*. The letters and messages have gratified Sultan very much. His Majesty wishes in the first place to consult Foreign Minister before he sends document which, however, he is quite prepared to do.

It is necessary, I think, that His Majesty should restore order in his country, which will not be an easy task, before thinking of railways, &c.

No. 245.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.— (*Received December* 12.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 12, 1902.

I AM informed by His Majesty's Vice-Consul that Sultan arrived near Fez on the 8th December. It is not certain whether His Majesty will proceed against Pretender or remain at Fez. From information from Taza itself, obtained by Vice-Consul, it would seem that Pretender has a considerable following, and maintains he is the Sultan's brother, and is preaching a Holy War against Christians and Sultan.

The defeat which Government troops sustained on the 29th November was severe, 25 prisoners were taken by Pretender and he has exposed 56 heads, besides capturing many rifles, &c.

Desertion from Government forces are said to be numerous, and parties of wounded men arrive daily at Fez.

Pretender has established Government at Taza, but he himself is reported to be at a place called Tsul. I doubt whether Sultan will be able to get to close quarters with him.

The Sultan has, Kaïd Maclean tells me, made terms with the Zemmours, as His Majesty considered it unadvisable to follow them into inaccessible mountains. His Majesty intends to transport the bulk of them to other districts and to punish them later.

No. 246.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 5, 1902.

THE Sultan's Deputy, Hadj Mohammed Torres, returned here from Fez on the 2nd instant, and I paid him a visit yesterday. I inquired of his Excellency whether any steps were to be taken in regard to those villages near Tangier who recently evinced their discontent with the rule of the Governor of this town by putting out the eyes of the chief official of the latter.

Hadj Mohammed Torres said that he was the bearer of a letter from the Sultan to these villages, and that an official from the Court had also been sent to assist him in an inquiry into the matter.

His Excellency added that he had requested the Headmen of the villages to come into Tangier, under promise of a safe-conduct, when he would read to them the Shereefian letter and hold an impartial inquiry into their grievances. The villagers are, I am informed, willing to send a deputation to Tangier, and the inquiry will shortly be held.

I do not know if it is proposed to punish those individuals who were parties to the ill-treatment of the Governor's official.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 247.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 5, 1902.

IN the course of an interview which I had yesterday with Cid Benasser Ghannam, the Sultan's Commissioner, he inquired of me what steps I would recommend him to take to obtain the adhesion of the French Government to the project of internal taxation.

I told him that he might courteously intimate to the French Minister the financial embarrassment in which the Moorish Government were being placed by

their inability to put the new scheme into operation, and request M. Saint René Taillandier to hasten, if possible, a reply from his Government.

He might also inquire whether there were any points in the project which were obscure or objectionable, so that he might consult his Government with a view of removing any difficulties.

I asked Cid Benasser Ghannam if all the questions with regard to the frontier were settled, as it was possible the French Government were withholding their consent to the taxation scheme till those matters had been arranged. He said that the frontier itself was concluded, but that the Moorish Commissioner had not yet terminated the question in respect to the dues to be levied at the markets which were to be established near the frontier.

I told Cid Benasser Ghannam that it would be wise to terminate that matter as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 248.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 13)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 7, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, dated the 2nd instant, reporting a severe repulse which the expedition operating in the Taza district has received at the hands of the forces of the Pretender. This defeat is most unfortunate, and it is to be hoped that the Sultan will speedily send the reinforcements which have been requested. His Majesty would have acted wisely in first disposing of the Pretender before marching against the Zemmours; but he had evidently been misled by the reports which had been made to him of the insignificance of the movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a further letter from Mr. Macleod stating that the Minister for Foreign Affairs fully confirms the news received by the Governor.

A. N.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *Fez, December 2, 1902.*

THERE were rumours in the town to-day of the Ghiata having defeated the forces of the Moorish Government near Taza; and, on inquiry of the Governor, he gave me the following account of what happened.

On the morning of the 30th November Muley Amrani divided his forces (about 45,000 of all arms) into two bodies. He left one body, composed chiefly of infantry, to guard the camp, and advanced with the other body towards Taza. He sent on in advance Kaïd Bu Suekh with a small body of men and one machine-gun to occupy the summit of Akba Ben Magara, a hill which commands the surrounding country. This was done without opposition.

A high gale of wind, with much rain, was blowing at the time; and some non-combatants with Muley Amrani's force turned and went back to camp. Kaïd Bu Suekh saw this movement, and thinking they were El Amrani's column, and that the latter had decided to abandon the advance on account of the weather, he made haste to evacuate his position, as he feared to be left without support. Some Ghiata thereupon sallied out from some neighbouring villages and attacked him while other Ghiata people assailed El Amrani's force. With great difficulty and much loss Kaïd Bu Suekh succeeded in reaching El Amrani. Meanwhile, a body of Beni Warain tribesmen, who formed the extreme right of El Amrani's forces, suddenly deserted to the enemy, with the result that El Amrani was driven back with severe loss to his camp.

I have not yet been able to ascertain the losses suffered by El Amrani, but from all accounts they are severe; and El Amrani has written to the Sultan urgently asking for reinforcements. The Governor had received a letter from El Amrani reporting the above, so that there can be no doubt as to the main facts.

The most unsatisfactory feature in this affair is the conduct of the Beni Warain. Hitherto, they have held aloof from the Pretender; and the Moorish Government relied upon obtaining free passage for the troops through their territory into Ghiata. This road will now be no longer open.

It appears to be the plan of the Pretender not to attempt to advance nearer Fez for the present; but to increase his prestige by inflicting defeats on the Sultan's troops when they advance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

Photographic Map.

[Not printed.]

No. 249.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 14, 1902.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 48 of the 12th instant I entirely concur in your view that the Sultan should establish order in the country before proceeding to matters connected with the construction of railways.

No. 250.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 128.)
Sir *Foreign Office, December 16, 1902.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 173 of the 5th instant, and I approve the advice which you gave to Cid Benasser Ghannam, the Sultan's Commissioner, in replt to his inquiries as to the means of obtaining the adhesion of the French Governmen to the project of internal taxation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 251.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1902.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 89 of the 29th ultimo reporting a conversation with the Duke of Almodovar with regard to the state of affairs in Morocco, and I desire to express my approval of the language held by your Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 252.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 176. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 13, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to report that I received yesterday a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean announcing his arrival at the Sultan's camp on the 30th ultimo. The letter was much delayed as heavy rains and swollen rivers have rendered communications with the interior very difficult.

Sir H. Maclean informs me that the Sultan was highly gratified with the letter from the King, and also with the friendly assurances and advice which His Majesty's Government had tendered to him.

The Sultan added that he was perfectly satisfied with the results of Sir H. Maclean's mission, and that he now felt encouraged to persevere with his reform projects.

His Majesty was quite prepared to sign the document relative to a railway from Mazagan to Morocco city, but said that he wished in the first place to consult with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I trust that the Sultan will devote all his attention to re-establishing order in the disturbed districts of his Empire, and especially take measures for promptly stifling the movement in favour of the Pretender. It would be premature to embark on any railway or other enterprises until this has been successfully accomplished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 253.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 177.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 13, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, in a letter dated the 8th instant, informs me that he has had an opportunity of obtaining some direct news from Taza as to the condition of affairs there, which he considers may be regarded as very fairly trustworthy.

The Pretender asserts that he is Muley Mehemed, a son of the late Sultan, and that Abdul Aziz died some time ago, the present Ruler being a false Sultan who has been placed upon the throne by the Christians.

This strange tale appears to have obtained credence among the followers of the Pretender.

The latter consequently invites all true believers to join him in waging a holy war against the Sultan and the Christians.

The Ghiata tribe are his chief supporters and are unanimously in his favour, whilst it is said that large portions of the Tsul, Braues, Oolad Bekkar, Oolad Abu Rima, Mikuassa, Houara, Ahl Debdu, and Mtsala have also joined him, as well as some Shereefs from Kenedsah and some Oolad Bugian of Haiyana. The Pretender, according to Mr. MacLeod's informant, has succeeded in inducing the various tribes to bury their blood-feuds and to make common cause with him. As instancing the success of the Pretender in this direction, Mr. MacLeod's informant states that the districts over which the influence of the Pretender extends were never more orderly and tranquil, and that the market of Taza was never more abundantly supplied.

Prices of the common necessities of life, as well as certain luxuries, are, according to a schedule furnished by the informant, considerably lower than those ruling at Fez.

The recent encounter with the forces under Muley Abdselam-el-Amarani took place on the 29th November; and though the exact number of the losses suffered by the Government forces is not yet known, still 56 heads were brought in to Taza, of which 19 were exposed at Taza, 25 were sent to Kasbah-el-Msau, and 12 to Debdu. Twenty-five prisoners were taken, and Mr. MacLeod states that parties of wounded men are daily arriving at Fez. The casualties among the Pretender's forces appear to have been insignificant. Further, the Pretender seized many rifles, and Martini's were being sold in the Taza district at about half the price they fetched at Fez.

Many of these rifles were doubtless handed over by deserters from the Government forces, as desertions are considered to have been fairly numerous since the defeat.

In connection with the above point, I may mention that some time ago the Sultan told Dr. Verdon that he trusted the Pretender would never occupy Taza, as there was a considerable store of Government rifles and ammunition there.

The Pretender has installed a species of Government at Taza, with a Governor, a Cadi, and a Treasurer, and has also appointed a "Vizier." The name of this official is Ben Seyid, and he is the son of the Nadir, or head of Mosque property, of Taza, and the name of the Treasurer is Omar-el-Zarboni. I may mention that this was the name originally given by the Moorish Government to the Pretender himself.

The Pretender is said to be at a place called Tzul. The reinforcements sent by the Sultan were composed of 2,000 men and two machine guns, and at the date of Mr. MacLeod's letter were encamped 2 miles east of Fez. The remainder of the expedition had retired from their previous positions to some 10 miles nearer to Fez.

The above was the situation when Mr. MacLeod wrote; and though there are some points, especially that of the identity of the Pretender, which might be a little clearer, still it is possible, I think, to gain a fairly accurate view of the state of affairs. I would hesitate to venture on any forecast as to the possible future development.

Mr. MacLeod adds in a *post scriptum* that the Sultan arrived unexpectedly at noon on the 8th instant at Ainkadus, about a mile west-north-west of Fez.

It was not known whether His Majesty proposed to enter Fez or proceed towards Taza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 254.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 178.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 13, 1902.

WITH respect to the operations which the Sultan was contemplating against the Zemmour tribes, His Majesty told Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean that he found that the tribe had fled to almost inaccessible mountains, whither it was impossible to follow them at this season of the year. The tribe had offered propitiatory sacrifices to him, and stated their readiness to accept any terms His Majesty might see fit to impose. The Sultan had therefore arranged that the tribe should return to their homes, should pay a large indemnity, and should engage to maintain the road to Rabat perfectly safe for travellers, and abstain from making further raids. The Sultan added that he was leaving a sufficiently strong force to collect the indemnity, and that when he arrived at Rabat he intended to collect a large expedition and dispatch it without warning into the Zemmour country, with orders to demand the surrender of 3,000 families, whom he proposed to transport to other localities in Morocco. His Majesty knew that the tribe would refuse to deliver up so large a number of families, and that then his expedition would severely chastise the tribe, and enforce His Majesty's commands.

A curious commentary on this proposed programme and on the sincerity of the submission of the tribe is furnished by the fact that the Sultan has given permission to the Beni Hassen and Sherarda tribes to return to their homes, as they complained that the Zemmours were raiding their farms and homesteads during their absence. Further, Sir H. Maclean informs me that at his last halting place before reaching the Sultan's camp the Zemmours had raided the village the night before and killed eight men, carrying off a great number of cattle. Sir H. Maclean added that between his halting place and Mequinez there was not a village left and that the road was unsafe.

Moreover, since the date of the arrangement made with the Zemmours, the Sultan has been compelled to hasten towards Fez on account of the recent success obtained by the Pretender. It is, therefore, I think, clear that the Zemmours will consider themselves at liberty to continue their lawless proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 255.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 22.)

(No. 179.)

Tangier, December 16, 1902.

My Lord,

THE town of Tangier has increased during the last few years very considerably, and the question of keeping it in a sanitary condition is becoming a very serious one. No rates or taxes are levied and the funds of the Hygienic Commission have been derived from private subscriptions, and some small revenues from the slaughter-house and landing jetty.

The public, though ready to criticise the method in which the Hygienic Commission endeavours to carry out its work, is very apathetic in giving the Commission the means to improve their services, and it has therefore been considered desirable to make an urgent appeal to the public to be a little more generous in their financial support, pending the introduction of some system of rates or taxes.

It has also been thought advisable to strengthen the Hygienic Commission by adding some official members to it, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the project of reorganization.

A Regulation affecting the internal condition of the town has also been drawn up, and I should be glad to receive your Lordship's sanction for its application to British subjects. Many of the provisions have already received your Lordship's approval, but there have been some fresh ones inserted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 255.

Projet de Règlement de Voirie.

1. EST interdit d'une manière générale tout ce qui peut gêner la libre circulation ou encombrer la voie publique.

2. Les négociants et boutiquiers ne devront déposer devant leurs magasins, entrepôts, ou boutiques que le nombre de colis dont l'enlèvement pourra s'effectuer immédiatement.

3. Il est interdit aux vendeurs de n'importe quels articles de s'installer sur les places et dans les rues de manière à empêcher ou à paralyser la libre circulation.

4. Il est interdit de faire du feu dans les rues.

5. Il est interdit de transporter de gros colis, poutres, machines et matériaux encombrants en général, dans les rues de la Mosquée et des Siaguins, les jours de fêtes Musulmanes, et les jours de grand marché avant 1 heure de l'après-midi.

6. Il est interdit de jeter dans les rues les eaux sales, ordures, balayures, fumier, paille, papiers, ou autres détritus quelconques. Chaque résident doit avoir un récipient portatif (boîte, caisse, seau, ou baril) destiné à recevoir toutes ces matières qui devront y être déposées avant les heures indiquées par l'Inspecteur de la Commission pour l'enlèvement. Seule la Commission par l'entremise de ses employés est autorisée à les enlever.

7. Il est interdit de conduire les animaux aux abreuvoirs sans qu'ils soient accompagnés par des gardiens. Chaque gardien n'aura pas à surveiller sur plus de cinq animaux.

8. Est interdite la circulation dans les rues de la ville, le grand soko et les lieux habités, des bœufs non entravés.

9. Il est interdit de tuer toute sorte d'animaux dans les rues. Exception est faite pour le jour de la fête du Aid-el-Kebir.

10. Il est interdit aux propriétaires ou conducteurs d'animaux d'imposer à leurs bêtes des charges excessives.

11. Il est interdit de faire galoper les chevaux, mules, ou ânes dans les rues de la ville et sur les points suivants: pour la plage jusqu'au New York Hôtel; pour le chemin de Fez jusqu'à la Villa Valentina; pour la Barriada San Francisco jusqu'à l'Hôpital Espagnol; pour le chemin de la montagne jusqu'à la campagne Sicsu; pour le chemin du Marshan jusqu'à la fin du Paseo Cenarro.

12. Afin d'éviter des accidents, il est indiqué que chacun, cavalier, voiturier, ou ânier doit prendre sa gauche quand il rencontre un autre, et prendre sa droite quand il veut le dépasser.

13. Aucun animal ne peut stationner, ni de jour ni de nuit, sur la voie publique sans être tenu en mains par un gardien chargé de veiller à ce qu'il n'entrave pas la circulation; chaque gardien ou conducteur ne doit pas avoir à veiller sur plus de cinq bêtes.

Tout animal trouvé sans gardien ou errant sera mis en fourrière aux frais de son propriétaire.

14. Il est interdit d'une façon absolue et sous quelque prétexte que ce soit, de toucher à la voie publique sans l'autorisation et le concours de la Commission d'Hygiène.

Les propriétaires qui auront à effectuer un travail les obligeant à toucher à la voie publique, réparations, canalisations, égouts, &c., ne pourront donc y procéder qu'avec l'autorisation et sous le contrôle de la Commission d'Hygiène. Ils devront effectuer les travaux dans le plus bref délai possible et devront remettre toutes choses en état, ou supporter les frais de réfection si la Commission juge à propos d'y procéder elle-même. En cas d'obstruction de quelque égout passant sous la voie publique, la reparation devra se faire immédiatement par les soins de la Commission d'Hygiène, et les frais devront être supportés, au prorata de l'importance de la propriété, par tous les propriétaires utilisant l'égout réparé. Pour ce qui regarde les propriétaires sujets Marocains, les prescriptions du présent Article pourront etre mises en vigueur par l'entremise du Mohtasseb.

15. Tout propriétaire désirant procéder à une construction ou à une réparation à proximité de la voie publique devra adresser une demande écrite d'autorisation à la Commission d'Hygiène qui discutera du temps que pourront durer les travaux et désignera la partie de la rue qui pourra servir, pendant ce temps, de dépôt aux matériaux ou aux décombres.

Celui qui encombrera les rues par des matériaux de construction ou décombres sans s'être conformé au préalable à ces prescriptions sera frappé d'une amende de 5 pesetas pour la première contravention et de 25 pesetas en cas de récidive. Cette amende pourra être répétée hebdomadairement mais au delà de quatre semaines elle sera quadruplée jusqu'à la mise en état de la rue.

Afin de sauvegarder les passants contre tout accident, celui qui aura à déposer dans la rue des matériaux ou des décombres devra tenir éclairé, toute la nuit, l'endroit ainsi encombré. L'Inspecteur de la Commission marquera le nombre et la disposition des lanternes à apposer. La première contravention à cette disposition sera frappée d'une amende de 1 peseta et la récidive d'une amende de 5 pesetas pour chaque nuit, par lanterne non allumée.

Aucune construction nouvelle ne pourra être commencée avant que les plans aient été soumises à une Commission, instituée à cet effet par le Conseil Sanitaire avec le concours des autorités Marocaines, et qu'elle n'ait vérifié qu'elle ne présente aucun inconvénient pour la santé publique.

De même les plans de tout égout projeté ne pourront être exécutés qu'après approbation de la susdite Commission.

Les constructeurs qui élèvent des constructions contiguës à la voie publique seront responsables de tout accident qui pourrait survenir du fait de ces constructions: ils restent libres de choisir les moyens propres à éviter ces accidents.

16. Il est interdit de faire sécher des peaux dans l'intérieur de la ville et dans tout le périmètre marqué à l'Article 11 ci-dessus.

17. Il est interdit dans l'intérieur des immeubles ou fondaks, de déposer des immondices, des matières corrompues, ou de procéder à des manipulations dangereuses pour la santé publique.

18. Tout propriétaire louant un local quelconque devant servir d'habitation doit munir son local d'un conduit ou évier destiné à l'écoulement des eaux sales.

19. Toute contravention aux Articles de ce Règlement pour lesquels une amende spéciale n'y est pas indiquée, sera punie d'une amende de 5 pesetas au maximum pour la première fois, de 20 pesetas au maximum pour la deuxième fois, et de 10 douros au maximum en cas de récidive. Ces amendes seront fixées et imposées par les Consulats respectifs des contrevenants ou par le Pacha pour les sujets indigènes, et perçues au profit de la Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie.

20. Dans le cas où les contrevenants ne seraient pas connus par l'Inspecteur de la Commission et se refuseraient de décliner leurs noms, prénoms, domicile, et nationalité, ils pourront en cas de nécessité, être arrêté par l'Inspecteur de la

Commission et amenés immédiatement devant le Gouverneur de la ville qui, après les recherches nécessaires, les enverra auprès de l'autorité dont ils relèvent.

21. Le présent Règlement sera publié et affiché, en Espagnol, Français, Anglais, et Arabe, afin de le porter à la connaissance de tous les habitants.

Inclosure 2 in No. 255.

Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie.

TITRE I.—ORGANISATION.

Paragraphe I.—Formation de la Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie.

ARTICLE 1. La Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie sera composée de 26 membres, dont 14 nommés officiellement, et 12 nommés à l'élection.

Membres officiels: Les Représentants des Puissances étrangères au Maroc, l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la Belgique, l'Espagne, les États-Unis d'Amérique, la France, la Grande-Bretagne, l'Italie, le Portugal, et la Russie, nommeront chacun un membre qu'ils auront la faculté de choisir soit parmi le personnel placé sous leurs ordres, soit parmi les notables de leur Colonie.

Le Gouvernement Marocain désignera le Président de la Commission, qui sera un indigène Musulman.

L'élément indigène Musulman sera représenté dans la Commission par deux membres Musulmans qui seront nommés par l'autorité locale ou élus par les contribuables ou souscripteurs indigènes Musulmans dans les mêmes conditions que les autres membres.

Le Grand Rabbin de Tanger nommera, pour représenter la Communauté Israélite, un Israélite qui ne devra être ni sujet ni protégé étranger.

Membres élus: Douze membres seront élus par les contribuables ou souscripteurs non sujets Marocains Musulmans, sans qu'aucune nationalité puisse être représentée à la Commission par plus de quatre membres élus.

Election.

Art. 2. Sont éligibles comme membres de la Commission tous les contribuables ou souscripteurs, sujets étrangers, âgés de 25 ans révolus, n'ayant subi aucune condamnation afflictive ou infamante, et habitant Tanger depuis deux ans au minimum. Tous les membres de la Commission sont rééligibles.

Art. 3. Sont électeurs tous les contribuables ou souscripteurs, non sujets Marocains Musulmans de Tanger.

L'élection des membres de la Commission aura lieu au scrutin de liste.

La liste des électeurs sera dressée par la Commission dans la dernière séance qui précédera son renouvellement; elle comprendra tous les électeurs ayant versé la dernière cotisation de l'année écoulée.

L'assemblée des électeurs sera convoquée dans la première quinzaine de Février par un avis publié dans les journaux locaux quinze jours avant l'élection et indiquant, en même temps que le local où le scrutin sera ouvert, le jour de l'élection, qui sera fixé par les membres officiels de la Commission. Le scrutin durera de 10 heures du matin à 4 heures de l'après-midi.

Le bureau de vote sera formé de trois membres officiels de la Commission, désignés par la totalité des membres officiels, dans la dernière séance qui précédera le renouvellement. Le Secrétaire rétribué assistera à la séance du scrutin.

Pendant toute la durée des opérations, une copie de la liste électorale certifiée par le Président ou le Président-Adjoint restera déposée sur la table autour de laquelle siégera le bureau.

Nul ne peut être admis à voter s'il n'est inscrit sur la liste électorale; nul ne peut être admis à voter pour une autre personne.

Les électeurs apporteront leurs bulletins préparés en dehors de l'assemblée.

Le vote de chaque électeur sera constaté sur la liste, en marge de son nom.

Aucun vote ne pourra être reçu après l'heure à laquelle le scrutin sera clos.

Après la clôture du scrutin, il sera procédé au dépouillement secret des votes par les soins du bureau.

Les bulletins devront porter douze noms, mais ils seront valables s'ils portent moins de ce chiffre.

Le lendemain du dépouillement le résultat de l'élection sera annoncé par affiche.

Nul ne sera élu s'il n'a réuni la majorité absolue des suffrages exprimés.

Si plusieurs candidats obtiennent le même nombre de suffrages on procédera au tirage au sort et l'élection sera acquise à celui dont le nom sera tiré.

Paragraphe II.—Fonctionnement de la Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie.

Art. 4. La Commission outre le Président aura un Président-Adjoint et un Vice-Président, qui seront nommés, à la majorité des souffrages de la Commission, dans la première réunion après les élections générales de chaque année.

La Commission prendra ses décisions à majorité de voix. En cas de partage de voix, la voix du Président compte double.

Le quorum nécessaire à la validité des délibérations est du tiers des membres de la Commission.

En cas de vacance par décès, démission, ou toute autre cause, la place vacante sera remplie par la personne non élue qui aura obtenu le plus grand nombre de suffrages aux dernières élections.

La Commission choisera un Trésorier, du sein de ses membres, dont les fonctions seront gratuites.

Le Secrétaire sera nommé par la Commission et il sera rétribué.

La Commission nommera un Inspecteur-Général dont les fonctions seront gratuites et deux Inspecteurs rétribués qui auront pour mission de veiller à l'application du Règlement de Voirie. Ils seront assistés de soldats indigènes, désignés par l'autorité locale, et dont le nombre variera suivant les besoins.

Art. 5. La Commission d'Hygiène élaborera un Règlement fixant la police des séances et la marche de ses travaux.

Paragraphe III.—Comptabilité.

Art. 6. Avant qu'il soit procédé aux élections de Février, la Commission publiera un compte rendu de sa gestion administrative et financière, vérifié et signé par un banquier nommé *ad hoc* par la Commission.

Art. 7. La Commission ne pourra ordonnancer aucune dépense, en dehors du service quotidien de la voirie, sans que cette dépense ait obtenu au préalable l'approbation des deux tiers de ses membres.

Aucun compte de dépenses, ordinaires ou extraordinaires, ne pourra être réglé par le Trésorier s'il ne porte la signature du Président-Adjoint ou du Vice-Président.

TITRE II.—ATTRIBUTIONS.

Art. 8. La Commission d'Hygiène et de Voirie est chargée de tout ce qui concerne la propreté, d'hygiène, l'assainissement, le pavage, les marchés, les abattoirs et la circulation dans la ville de Tanger et son périmètre qui s'étend à 2 kilom. de la porte du marché extérieur sur toutes les voies y aboutissant.

Art. 9. Pour ce qui concerne le nettoyage de la voie publique, la construction et la réparation des égouts, le pavage et autres travaux se rattachant à l'Article 8, la Commission a pleine liberté d'action et aura le choix d'effectuer les travaux elle-même ou de les mettre en adjudication. Elle devra en tous cas observer les règles d'art et procéder aux travaux le plus économiquement possible.

Art. 10. Les prescriptions à observer par le public, en matière d'hygiène et de voirie, sont contenues dans un Règlement spécial.

No. 256.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Foreign Office, December 23, 1902.

Sir,

AS the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are aware, the Mission of His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to present his new credentials to the Sultan of Morocco at Rabat, originally arranged to take place in 1901, was postponed, and eventually took place early this year.

By your letter of the 18th April, 1901, sanction was conveyed for an estimated expenditure of 180*l.* for wages, gratuities, stores, passages of servants, &c., together with the regulation charges for entertainment on board one of His Majesty's ships which was to convey the Mission from Tangier to Rabat and back.

The staff which it was proposed should accompany Sir A. Nicolson was subsequently communicated to the Lords Commissioners, who expressed their approval in their letters of the 31st December, 1901, and 14th January last.

I am now directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for their Lordships' information, that the expenditure to be set against Sir A. Nicolson's original estimate of 180*l.* is as follows:—

Wages, gratuities to escort, transport, equipment, provisions, &c., 208*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The excess is almost entirely due to the fact that the Mission on its return was unable to embark at Rabat owing to the bad state of the Bar, and was obliged to proceed overland to Dar-al-Baida.

The charge for entertainment on board His Majesty's ship "Illustrious" during the passage to and fro amounted to 16*l.* 8*s.*

In addition to the above charges, the travelling expenses from London to Tangier and back of Captain James, one of the military officers who accompanied the Mission, viz., 32*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, having been defrayed by this Department.

The total expenditure of the Mission thus amounts to 257*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, for which sum I am to request the covering sanction of the Lords Commissioners.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 257.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 133.)

Foreign Office. December 24, 1902.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 179 of the 16th instant inclosing a copy of the project of reorganization of the Hygienic Commission of Tangier, and of the Regulation affecting the internal condition of the town.

This Regulation should, if properly carried out, prove of great benefit to Tangier, and I sanction its application to British subjects, as you suggest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 258.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 26, 1902.

AN action between the Government forces and the Pretender, which is said to have been serious, took place near Tsul on the 20th instant.

The Vice-Consul at Fez reports that from information furnished to him from a private source, but which he has not yet been able to verify, the action was a defeat, but Government states they were victorious.

The results of the action were possibly indecisive.

No. 259.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram (No. 51 of the 26th instant) I have the honour to report that news has just reached me which leads me to believe that the Government forces have suffered a serious reverse, and that the situation has become very critical at Fez.

I am expecting details by a special courier who will arrive this evening or to-morrow.

I am sending a special message to the Sultan to dispatch all British subjects to the coast at once, as I am uneasy as to their safety at Fez.

No. 260.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 27, 1902.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 52 of to-day:

In despatch dated 24th instant Vice-Consul at Fez reports complete defeat of Government forces by the Pretender. Latter, after two days' fighting, captured camp, ammunition, and guns. The Sultan's two uncles who were in command, and also fugitives, are arriving at Fez.

There is much excitement in Fez; business is suspended, and shops are shut. Steps are being taken by Government to keep order in the town.

I have informed my colleagues. Similar instructions to those I mentioned in my previous telegram were sent by French Minister to his Consul.

For the safety of the British subjects I have given Vice-Consul full authority to take any measures he thinks desirable.

The overthrow of the Sultan is certain if Pretender enters Fez, and it is possible that he may, and trouble throughout the country would then be probable.

Ships might be required at the ports, and I think it might be well to reinforce those at Gibraltar.

All British subjects in the interior are being warned to move down to the coast.

No. 261.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 54.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 28, 1902.

THE following is Confidential.

It is probable, I think, that the Sultan will not remain at Fez, but will seek refuge by escaping to Tangier. I should be grateful for instructions in the event of this proving to be the case.

To ensure His Majesty's personal safety I might place him on a man-of-war.

It is possible that the Sultan might desire to be transported to one of the southern ports in order to proceed to Morocco City, there, where the population is at present loyal, to raise an army.

I should like to be prepared for every possible eventuality, as I think events will move rapidly.

No. 262.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 181. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 17, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, translation of a letter which I have received from Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, conveying the satisfaction of the Sultan with the messages which Kaid Sir H. Maclean had been authorized to deliver to His Majesty. Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi further expresses his own thanks for the protective paper which, at the desire of the Sultan, has been accorded to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 3 *Ramadan*, 1320 (*December* 4, 1902).

WHEN General Maclean, the Instructor, returned to the Shereefian Court from England, he reported to our Lord the good reception he had had from your Government, the Friendly, and of the attention which had been given to the important matters with which he had been intrusted by His Shereefian Majesty, and that he returned accompanied by that which removed doubt, and disclosed the truth of the reports. This is all in conformity with what was expected from your continual sincere friendship and your firm promises. This caused His Majesty much joy and pleasure, and satisfied his mind as to the reports of the vain and untruthful, who seek to separate friendly hearts or perturb clear friendship, but which, by the power of God, will increase every instant in strength and unity. His Majesty praises your action in this, and acknowledges the great service, and thanks your Excellency most fully. His Majesty is sure that all this is due to your endeavours, O praised, good, Counsellor, and through your mediation, towards the continuance of amity between the two glorious nations, as it has existed between their great Rulers.

His Majesty thanks you for this, and trusts that you may be accorded every blessing.

I have to inform your Excellency, the sincere Friend, that the said Kaid Maclean has brought me from your Government, the Glorious, that which has renewed to me the greatest friendship, &c., and all this through your happy mediation. I inform you of this that you may take your share in our joy and participate in our pleasure.

(Signed) MEHEDI-BEN-EL-ARBI-EL-MENEBHI.

No. 263.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 18, 1902.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida informs me that the Moorish local authorities have received orders to draw up regulations for the better sanitation in Dar-al-Baida, and preservation of order in the streets. Mr. Maclean tells me that the Regulations have been accepted by the Consular Body, and that most of the provisions are already contained in the Queen's Regulations, 1862, but that a few, of which a copy is inclosed, are new measures which he is unable to inforce without your Lordship's approval. I should be obliged if your Lordship would be good enough to sanction them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Regulations as to Sanitary Arrangements at Dar-al-Baida.

EVERY person shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 2*l.*, and in default to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month, who shall commit any of the following offences, that is to say:—

1. Every person who shall fasten or tie up, or leave a horse, mule, ass, camel, or any other beast of burden longer than is necessary to load or unload it of its load in any street or public place.

2. Every person being the owner of cattle or pigs, and fastening them up or leaving them at large in the streets or public places.

3. Every person keeping pigs within the town walls for a period longer than twenty-four hours.

4. Every person who within the town walls, lays out to dry, beats, prepares, or packs hides and skins in the streets or public places.

5. Every person who within the town walls shall work a winnowing machine for grain, or any other machine causing dust in the streets or public places.

6. Every person placing or piling sacks, bales, boxes, or other objects in the streets or public places, thereby obstructing the said streets or public places either wholly or in part.

In the above Regulations "public place" shall mean and include every public highway, every bridle way, footway, open space or square, and other place of public resort.

"Street" shall mean and include any road, thoroughfare, highway, lane, court, alley, passage, or open place used or frequented by the public, or to which the public have access.

British Consulate, Dar-al-Baida.

No. 264.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1902.

LETTER from Kaïd Maclean, dated the 24th December, to hand confirming news of defeat, also stating that Pretender captured one Maxim, the mountain-guns (number not specified), and three Gardner guns, as well as a quantity of ammunition and rifles.

None of the leaders of the Sultan's troops, he adds, have returned to Fez.

After an action which apparently lasted all day, when Government troops were exhausted, the camp was attacked suddenly at night on three sides by the Pretender, with the results already reported.

A fresh expedition is being prepared, according to Kaïd Maclean, to start at once against the Pretender.

Maclean is still sanguine, though it would seem doubtful if it would be able to retrieve the situation.

In a letter dated the 24th December, the Vice-Consul at Fez states that the ladies of the North Africa Mission are being brought to his house, and should it prove advisable to do so he will send them off to the coast at once.

Above letters were dispatched from Fez and arrived by German post only a few hours after special courier had started carrying news reported in my previous telegram.

No. 265.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 29, 1902.*

LETTERS dated the 25th December just arrived from Kaid Maclean and Vice-Consul.

Maclean says everything was lost in the Government Camp in the last battle, which occurred at ten hours from Fez; also that the Pretender's men were well armed, and fought skilfully and well; on the other hand the Government forces being badly armed and ill led made little stand. Both Maclean and Vice-Consul consider situation most serious, while Sultan and Government still make light of affair, but they are unable to make the Sultan see the affair in the proper light.

If communications were cut off famine would soon arrive, as there is great scarcity at Fez.

Tranquillity seems to be restored in the town.

No. 266.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, December 29, 1902.*

MOROCCO. With reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 60 and 61 of yesterday.

Sir A. Nicolson's apprehensions are confirmed by practically identical information which has reached the Italian Government.

No. 267.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 29, 1902.*

THE Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron, to whom the substance of your telegram No. 53 of the 27th instant was communicated, reports that he is sending His Majesty's steam-ships "Bacchante," "Canopus," "Implacable," "Victorious," and "Diana," with Rear-Admiral Walker in command, to Gibraltar. They are to leave Malta at 8 a.m. to-day and proceed at 12-knot speed.

No. 268.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 29, 1902.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 54 of the 28th instant, I authorize you to make arrangements for the embarkation of the Sultan on board a British ship, should he appeal to you for permission to do so, in order to secure his personal safety. In this case, if His Majesty so desired, the ship might convey him to a southern port. You should, however, carefully avoid all action suggestive of any idea on the part of His Majesty's Government to uphold the Sultan against his subjects in rebellion.

No. 269.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 29, 1902.*

SEÑOR ABARZUZA, whom I have just seen, has no information in regard to Morocco beyond that given by His Majesty's Representative at Tangier.

His Excellency states that news from Fez is anxiously awaited by the Spanish Government, who are in the meantime holding troops in readiness to reinforce the garrisons in Africa. If it is necessary, the cruiser "Infanta Isabel" will go to Tangier.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was very cordial, asked me specially to convince His Majesty's Government that, in entering upon this affair, Spain would act with entire goodwill towards England and would be free from any prejudices. His Excellency dwelt upon the historical grounds for the friendship between the two countries, and deplored the misunderstandings which had arisen occasionally between them, and he added that their interests seemed to be identical in Morocco.

I have been informed through other sources of the arrival at Tangier of the cruiser "Infanta Isabel."

No. 270.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 30, 1902.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 60 of the 29th December:

Preparations on a considerable scale seem to be in progress at the Spanish War Office. In different parts of the country troops are being held in readiness, and officers and men are being recalled from leave.

The idea is, apparently, if the state of affairs grows worse, to send over about 4,000 men to Melilla and Ceuta and to strengthen the garrisons in southern Spain.

The Spaniards are watching events with great interest, but there is no excitement. The press is maintaining a cautious and steady tone.

No. 271.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December 30, 1902.*

CRISIS in Morocco.

The fate of the Europeans in the interior of the country causes M. Delcassé very much anxiety. He fears that fanaticism in the interior may be stimulated by the news of any foreign demonstration on the coast, and that massacres of Europeans would follow. His Excellency assures me that France has not at this moment any ship of war on the coast of Morocco, nor has she sent a single one there. Since the 28th instant he has not received any telegram from Tangier.

M. Delcassé made a great effort, suffering as he does from loss of voice, to impress upon me his opinion that all Foreign Powers should display the greatest caution in taking any steps which might lead to misinterpretation. He does not believe that there is any danger for Europeans except in the interior; for, as far as is known, Tangier and, indeed, all the coast remain quiet. M. Delcassé hoped that the outbreak would be extinguished on the spot by some decisive event; otherwise, the flame of fanaticism might extend to Algeria. He seemed to think that the Powers most interested might find it necessary to consult together and act in concert.

His Excellency shrugged his shoulders when I remarked that complete extinction of the danger on the spot might be equivalent to the extinction of the Sultan and, perhaps, of the dynasty.

No. 272.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1902.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 60 of the 29th instant, reporting a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, pray express to His Excellency the satisfaction with which I have learned his views. He may rely upon a no less friendly disposition on the part of His Majesty's Government.

We shall always be glad to confer with him as to affairs in Morocco, confidentially and frankly.

No. 273.

Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 31, 1902.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram:

It is said that the intention of the War Office at present is to send 1,600 men only to Africa. This number is wanted to make the garrisons up to their proper strength both at Ceuta and Melilla. The rest of the 4,000 men are to be kept in readiness.

No. 274.

Sir R. Rodd to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, December* 31, 1902.

IN conversation to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs about Morocco, his Excellency employed the phrase "nous suivons une politique de désintéressement au Maroc."

He added that he would send a ship of war to protect Italian subjects if other Powers sent ships; but he did not wish to be the first to adopt this course.

No. 275.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1902.

I LEARN from the Spanish Minister that he has just been informed by Sultan's Deputy that, owing to the difficulties in which the Moorish Government find themselves, he has written to the Governor of Tetuan instructing him to concede all demands of the Beni Ider tribe.

The above-mentioned tribe were, it is reported, contemplating renewal of hostilities after to-morrow's feast. I trust that this measure will tranquillize them.

No. 277*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1902.

SIR E. MONSON'S telegram No. 80 of the 30th December, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 30 of to-day's date.

I venture to agree with M. Delcassé's opinion that the presence of war-ships at Tangier or on the coast, unless there should be urgent need of them, would probably create danger.

This evening I heard that a Spanish vessel was expected here. This, I think, is to be regretted.

At the same time, in case the Sultan is overthrown, and there is an outburst of fanaticism which might spread even to the coast towns, I think some ships of war should be ready near at hand.

Soon I hope to have all British subjects now in the interior in the coast towns, where they can, if necessary, be protected.

My only anxiety at present is for the Europeans at Fez, and about them I am extremely anxious.

No. 276.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1902.

FROM native sources the French Minister informs me he hears that the Pretender will not at present enter Fez, but will effectually isolate the town by working round to the north, gaining tribes on north and south of it.

The scheme appears a likely one to be followed; the French Minister, however, gave me the above news for what it is worth.

No. 277.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 31, 1902.

THE Shereefs of Wazzan here have furnished me with the information that the people from the south are espousing the cause of Muley Mohammed, the Sultan's brother, who has been released from Mequinez.

The Pretender is also a Muley Mohammed, but a brother of the late Sultan, according to the Shereefs.

These reports must, however, be received cautiously.

Weather has been wet, which may have delayed couriers, as I have had no news from Fez later than the 25th December; but I shall begin to fear that communications are interrupted if I receive no courier before to-morrow evening.

No. 278.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 519. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1902.

I HAD a prolonged conversation to-day with the French Ambassador upon the subject of the situation in Morocco.

His Excellency confirmed the statement made yesterday to your Excellency by M. Delcassé, and recorded in your telegram No. 80.

It was, in the opinion of the French Government, most important that the Powers should, at this juncture, avoid any action which might have the effect of stimulating fanaticism amongst the Moors. If we could escape a general movement directed against Europeans resident in Morocco, it did not seem to the French Government to matter much whether that country was reigned over by one Sultan or another. His Excellency told me that he was able to assure me that the French Government strongly desired that there should be no disturbance of the *status quo* in Morocco, even if the events now in progress should lead to the overthrow of the present Sultan.

In the second place, they wished to abstain, if possible, from interference with the internal affairs of the country. In the next place, it was, in their opinion, most desirable that, should intervention become inevitable, the Powers interested should take counsel together as to its nature and scope, and should agree that there should be no single-handed intervention ("intervention isolée") on the part of any one Power.

Finally, and upon this point his Excellency laid great stress, should any interference from outside become absolutely necessary, the French Government thought that action should be taken only by those Powers which have a distinct interest in Morocco, and that no others should be allowed to participate. It would be a great mistake to "internationalize such a movement overmuch."

I told his Excellency that we, too, as he was well aware, desired that the *status quo* should be maintained in Morocco. We should also be extremely reluctant to interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

Nor did I differ from him with regard to the desirability of previous consultation between the Powers concerned, should intervention unfortunately become necessary. I thought it, indeed, most important that no single Power should take advantage of the present crisis in order to play for its own hand.

Up to the present all that we had done had been to send some ships of war to Gibraltar in order that they might be in readiness if their presence was required to secure the safety of our nationals at any of the Moorish ports. We might possibly, I added, should the Sultan, for whom we had a personal regard, find himself obliged to make his escape, allow him to make use of a British ship for the purpose.

With regard to his Excellency's suggestion that should intervention become inevitable, it should be restricted to the "Puissances intéressées," I asked him for an explanation of the meaning of this expression.

He answered without hesitation that Germany was the Power which he had in his mind and which the French Government would like to exclude.

Germany had no concern with Morocco, although she had on one or two occasions unsuccessfully tried to obtain a footing there. The only Powers really interested were Great Britain, France, and Spain, and it would be most desirable that if Germany were at any moment to come forward and attempt to assume a conspicuous rôle, it should be intimated to her that she had no *locus standi*.

I told his Excellency that in my personal opinion it would, supposing international action to become inevitable, certainly be desirable to restrict as closely as possible the number of intervening Powers. The question was, however, obviously a delicate one, and I should like to examine it more closely before I expressed agreement or disagreement with the proposition which he had advanced.

I asked him whether there were any other Powers besides Germany to which his remarks might also be applied.

He said that it seemed to him not inconceivable that the United States might evince an interest in the matter. I said that I thought this not very probable, and I asked whether it would be safe to assume that Italy had no interest in Morocco.

He replied unhesitatingly that she had none, and his manner left me in no doubt that a clear understanding upon the point exists between France and Italy.

It is interesting to compare the tenour of M. Cambon's observations with that of those which he addressed to me upon the same subject on the 6th August (see my despatch No. 316 A).

At that time the French Government seemed to contemplate with equanimity, if not with satisfaction, a "liquidation" of Morocco, under which that country would be, if not partitioned, at any rate divided into spheres of influence under the control of France, England, and Spain. To-day he made no reference to any such possibilities, and represented the French Government as the leading advocate of non-intervention and of the maintenance of the *status quo*.

His Excellency informed me that the Spanish Government had been made aware of the manner in which the question was regarded by the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 279.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 376.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1902.

THE German Ambassador told me to-day that in his belief all the Powers desired to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco, and wished to avoid intervention in that country.

I repeated to his Excellency the substance of Sir E. Monson's conversation with M. Delcassé, recorded in his telegram No. 80 of the 30th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 280.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 134.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1902.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 183 of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of certain new Regulations which the Consular Body at Dar-al-Baida have agreed to adopt for the better sanitation of that town and preservation of order in the streets.

As these Regulations appear likely to be of benefit to the population of the town, I concur in the expediency of their enforcement, and I authorize their adoption as far as British subjects are concerned.

You should inform Mr. Consul Maclean accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.